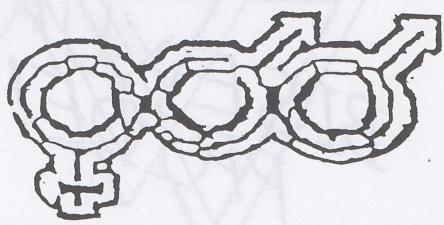


NATIONAL BIWAYS



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 4

JUNE 1993

**NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BISEXUAL MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA
PRODUCED BY THE AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK PO BOX 490 LUTWYCHE QLD 4030
INCORPORATING BIWAYS NEWSLETTER FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK**



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

National BIWAYS is produced by the Australian Bisexual Network to inform its audience about social, political and personal issues relevant to bisexuality, to provide a forum for exchanging opinions and sharing experiences, to link up with and support geographically or socially isolated bisexual people, to foster the Bisexual Movement in Australia and to help build a diverse multicultural community of bisexual and bi-friendly people in Australia.

ABN realises that bisexuality is inextricably linked to other identities (gender, race, class, etc). Our intention is that *National BIWAYS* will represent a broad spectrum of bisexual voices and images. We are committed to taking an active role in building a multicultural bisexual community free of racism, sexism, classism, homophobia and other forms of oppression.

Through self-examination and through the contents of the newsletter, we will challenge our own racism, classism, sexism (and our own biphobia) as well as that of others. We will work to create a supportive bisexual community and to promote equality and understanding for bisexual people in both the heterosexual and the lesbian/gay communities. We regard ourselves as part of a larger sexual minority (queer) community, a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, and consider the fight for lesbian and gay rights to be our own. We advocate the recognition, inclusion and involvement of bisexual people in all existing gay and lesbian communities, in lesbian and gay politics and in HIV/AIDS issues, research and education.

We are sex-positive, recognising that we live under increasing sexual oppression. We support sex education for its own sake. We advocate the distribution of information and resources to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, STDs and unwanted pregnancies. We support the rights of people with HIV/AIDS to be free of discrimination, to have access to information, housing and quality medical care and treatments.

We seek to expand, not constrain, the definitions of bisexual and we respect the right of the individual to define her/his own self-definition, identity and type of relationship(s), free from any social, political, religious or economic coercion. We acknowledge the right of partners, particularly female partners of bisexual men, to quality non-judgemental counselling and health services if needed, to greater understanding by all communities and to honesty in their relationship.

National BIWAYS is published at least once every two months (if not monthly). It is available by subscription, exchange or from the various affiliated bisexual groups in each Australian state and territory. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors unless otherwise stated. The inclusion of a person's name or photograph or business advertisement should not be taken as an indication of their sexual identity.

The Australian Bisexual Network and *National BIWAYS* are unfunded and rely on your support to keep going. We welcome submissions of material for publication; assistance with production; involvement in Network and group activities; individual and community financial or "in kind" support.

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THE GREAT BISEXUAL DEBATE

After over 12 months of trying to get gay and lesbian communities in Australia to discuss bisexual issues and concerns, the great bisexual/transgender and queer debate has finally hit our communities. This followed the removal of Sydney transgenderist, Norrie May Welby from the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby over criticism at the lack of support for bisexual and transgender people. The resulting debate has polarised the gay, lesbian and queer communities in Sydney. We have seen a special general meeting of the Lobby reaffirm their commitment to gay men and lesbians and reject broadening their base to include bisexuals and transgenderists. This has resulted in extensive letters to the editors of Sydney's gay and lesbian press. The Debate has also spread to other States and comment in other gay newspapers. The Debate has included which group owns the word QUEER and whether it should be used at all.

A selection of reports, editorials and letters that have appeared in the Sydney Star Observer, Lesbians On The Loose and Westside Observer have been reproduced below and on accompanying pages so that you can best gauge the extent of community opinion. The Debate has not ended here as June 26 is Stonewall Day with pride events, marches and activities happening around the country. The Stonewall Committee in Sydney has openly invited the Sydney Bisexual Support Network and the Transgenderists to play an active role in this year's Stonewall Day activities. It seems that many gay men and lesbians are actually very supportive. What is needed is more of them to speak out along with us. It would appear there is much confusion over what bisexual rights and issues actually are.

For me the basic bisexual rights being sort are recognition, respect, equality and consultation. We are no longer prepared to contribute to a community and push for rights if we are continually called gay men and lesbians or gay supporters or excluded altogether. We want to be acknowledged as bisexual men and women who are a part of a queer community. We want respect and the right to love whom we want without fear. Equality speaks for itself. We want to be consulted on issues such as vilification, anti-violence and HIV/AIDS policy and research when it affects men who have sex with men (and women).

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GIVING LIP

IN TWO MINDS

Bisexuals have long been the invisible members of the lesbian and gay community. They have hidden from fear of disapproval and are now clamouring to have their voices heard.

The inclusion of bisexuality on the agenda of our community organisations is just becoming an issue in Australia. Already, organisations in the U.S. and Canada are prefixing themselves Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual. In Canada the word "lesbigay" was recently coined to encompass all three groups.

After much discussion, I'm still unsure. On the one hand, why should we, who are excluded from the mainstream, practice discrimination within our own community. On the other, while so many of our own rights are not recognised, why should we concern ourselves with bisexual rights? After all, they have greater access than we do to heterosexual privileges.

Bisexuals, though, are part of our community whether we like it or not. The biggest fear many of us dykes have about bisexual women is on the personal level, that a bisexual lover might leave us for a man. Does it matter who she leaves you for? At least if you allow her to feel comfortable enough to come out to you about her bisexuality you'll know what the risks are.

Recognising bisexual identity in our community organisations is a little different. What are bisexual rights anyway? Does recognising bisexuals detract from our own identities?

I don't know the answers but I do consider that because bisexuals have the option of heterosexuality they don't have the same experience of discrimination that we have.

Coalition has benefited both lesbians and gays, although there are those who'd argue it's benefited gay men more. How much energy do we want to put into coalition with bisexuals and how much are they prepared to work on our issues if we do... I'm in two minds.

From Lesbians On The Loose, May 1993.

Lobby votes to 'resist change'

BY BARBARA FARRELLY

The membership of Sydney's Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby has voted 88 to 39 "to resist any change in the foreseeable future" to broaden its constitution to embrace transgender and bisexual issues.

About 160 people attended a special general meeting of the Lobby's membership on April 20, called after the expulsion of transgender activist, Norrie-May Welby precipitated the "queer debate". The meeting voted to reinstate Welby to the GLRL.

After a spill of the management committee, five former and ten new members were elected to manage the Lobby. Membership on the night swelled by 70 to 240.

The key motion, to affirm the gay and lesbian identity of the Lobby's constitution, was put by Mardi Gras Secretary, Richard Cobden, and seconded by Jane

Clements, who was later elected female co-convenor, replacing Deborah Taylor. Paul Costello was re-elected as male co-convenor.

The three motions on the agenda paper were hammered out after various community movers and shakers met secretly, according to former committee member, Jay Turner, who, in her letter of resignation accused the Lobby of eschewing open debate, of stacking meetings, and of degenerating into the politics of divide and rule.

In his letter of resignation, Yoschi Takayama, said "back room politics" had undermined the constitutional power of committee members. Neither had supported Welby's expulsion on March 25.

Although the Lobby's constitution cannot be changed without 21 days notice, two competing motions were put to the mem-

bership which defined the parameters of the queer debate — Cobden/Clements affirming the status quo and Welby/Bersten's motion, which was later lost, calling for the recognition of rights as not solely the entitlement of people identifying as exclusively lesbian or gay.

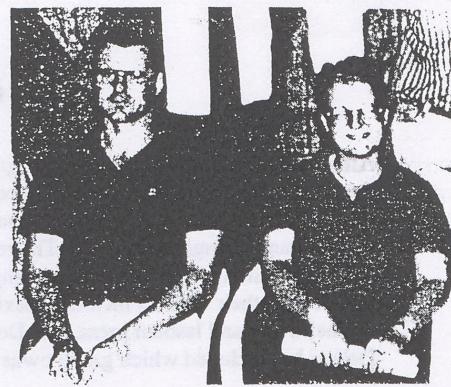
The first of 11 speakers, Cobden addressed his motion by saying the Lobby had its work cut out fighting for the rights of homosexuals: "If we take bisexual and transgender issues on as part of our mission ... we'll have to take account of the broad interest of a group of people — bisexuals — who can retreat when convenient to the safe haven of their heterosexuality, and of transgender people, many of whom identify as heterosexual."

Cobden said the Lobby would stand shoulder-to-shoulder on some issues "but those peoples' interests and emphases and focus

will diverge and, indeed in some circumstances, will conflict," he said.

Michael Primrose, Convenor of the Anti-Violence Project, said there was no way, in the midst of Leather Pride Week, he could support the motion: "I have watched and heard with increasing distaste and anger over the last few weeks, the separation of what should be a powerful community into blocs. There is no way I am ever going to allow the leather/SIM/fetish communities to be denied membership of the lesbian and gay communities."

Peter Grogan, President of the AIDS Council of NSW, said the issue was identity not exclusion: "This is a debate simply about what the organisation sees as its primary focus. I want to see the strength of that message retained. I don't want to see this organisation change its identity and I don't want to change my identity



Paul Costello and Jane Clements, Lobby co-convenors
PHOTO BY FAIRWEATHER

That doesn't preclude people from being in this group."

Benjamin Black, who identified as a female to male transsexual, canvassed workplace discrimination faced by transgender people: "We fought for your rights ... but when are you going to support us. How can you just shut the door and say this is not our issue?"

Kate Hickson, a member of the Sydney Bisexual Support Network, "I don't know how many of you who identify as strict lesbian or gay realise how much inter-relating is going on. We are sleeping together. Wake up and realise how things are changing. I think the Lobby has to get in touch with where the community is at. I don't think that including our issues is going to weaken your status. The bi community is so bloody diverse, the amount of support those people can offer the Lobby, can offer this community

would blow you away. It is time to change, it's time to grow and it's time to represent the diversity of the community."

NSW Labor politician, Paul O'Grady, who moved Welby's expulsion, said the Lobby's agenda was too broad for a gay and lesbian organisation let alone anything else: "I think we need a debate about bisexual and transgender issues ... I don't know where all these bisexuals are. I haven't seen them pounding on my door and I think it's fair to say I talk to a fair few people and no one has raised with me the great mass of bisexual issues ... We should not be hoodwinked into a concept which in my view is unproven."

O'Grady attacked the *Star Observer* for the weight given to the queer debate (SSO 206 Lobby Expels Queer Activist) and wrongly claimed this newspaper had failed to report, in the same issue, the ALP Shadow Cabinet's endorsement of Clover Moore's anti-homosexual vilification legislation.

"It is my very firm belief this decade will achieve great things for our community. We will not achieve them if we sit on our arses and we will not achieve them if we have philosophical debates about the niceties of politics," O'Grady said.

Norrie-May Welby told the meeting about a former lover who identified not as a gay man but as a human being. "He was the lover of several women and other guys. In 1985 he was bashed to death on Oxford Street. He was walking down the street with a drag queen. The four youths who bashed him to death didn't ask him if he identified as gay or lesbian or bisexual. They just beat him to death because they thought he was queer."

"If the Lobby, and the Anti-Violence Project it oversees, is not for people like him then who is it for? Is it merely for a bunch of fairly well-off, white, middle-class homosexual people who are quite secure in their sexual identity, who know who they won't ever fuck for the rest of their lives, and who presumably have never had a non-homosexual relationship — people of no real street credibility, who have no real appreciation of just what happens out there?"

Deja vu and the Lobby's queer debate

OPINION BY GRAHAM CARBERY

HAVING BEEN AROUND THE GAY AND lesbian political scene for a long time, I felt a fond twinge of nostalgia as I climbed the stairs and joined the queue waiting to enter the spacious but spartan meeting room. So much like the surroundings of gay bars meeting places in Melbourne of the early '70s.

The crowd was older and the collar and tie brigade was new, as was the number of lawyers present, but the issues were similar. In Melbourne Gay Liberation Front there were bitter debates in 1973-74 about the role of bisexuals in Gay Lib — the outcome of which was that most of the bisexuals went away (we weren't so sophisticated as to expel them in those days). There were also debates about drag, largely unresolved.

The main argument against Gay Lib offering a place for bisexuals was that their presence would impede the progress toward a radical Gay consciousness of those who are Gay.

The Gay Lib emphasis on coming out could not be shared by those who had the

option of returning to the closet when the heat was on. There was also a suspicion that bisexuals are really not facing up to their homosexuality — "bisexuality as a cop-out".

This argument has much less force today. I don't believe that the identity of gay men and lesbians is so fragile as to be threatened by the inclusion of bisexual issues. What are we afraid of? Is it the prospect of the numerical domination of bisexuals over those of us who are 100 percent gay or lesbian? It seems to me absurd for our movement to ignore the gay and lesbian aspects of bisexuality.

Transgender issues did not arise in the same way, but if you look at *Gay Liberation Press* you will see in issue No. Seven that very extensive coverage was given to a Sydney transsexual, Vivian Sharman, who, rather like Norrie-May Welby, saw her sexuality in a particular fluid way (becoming involved in lesbian relationships after undergoing male/female sex reassignment surgery).

Re-reading that interview, it was clear that support from both the Gay and Women's movements for transsexuals was scant, perhaps in contrast to the support which is emerging for transsexuals now. Indeed, with the creation of groups like the Transgender Liberation Coalition and the Australian Bisexual Network, the gay and

lesbian movements will be increasingly challenged to properly consider the relevance of issues previously easily dismissed.

As an outsider to the Sydney movement, I was most struck by the fact that there is at least a forum for such a debate to occur. In Melbourne similar controversies occur, but they are confined to committee rooms and, at best, the letters columns of our press.

Perhaps this is because none of Melbourne's gay groups' working outside of the AIDS area are funded anything like GLRL. When there's money around, I suppose the stakes are higher and positions on boards become much more prized.

During the last Victorian State election, a gay man Shane Tonks, aka Barbra Quicksand of show girl fame in Melbourne, sought the support of gay and lesbian groups in standing as a candidate for the seat of Albert Park.

Barbra Quicksand was confronted with very similar rejection to what Norrie-May Welby has experienced; ignored or outright rejected by those who thought drag queens would give the gay community a bad name ... and that included a sizeable chunk of the Melbourne gay male political establishment, which failed to endorse the Quicksand campaign until the last minute when it became obvious even to them that

Barbra's campaign was giving gay and non-gay issues a high public profile, and was gaining widespread community support whether the establishment liked it or not. The gay conservatives were supported by some feminist lesbians driven by philosophical objections to drag.

It seems to me that transsexuals, as with other sexual minorities among us, deserve our movement's support on solidarity grounds first and foremost. Who, if not the gay movement, will offer support to those experiencing sexual oppression. But, if the moral argument is not persuasive — and let's face it, for the number crunchers, it never is — then our leaders can ill afford to forget that moderates need radicals, if our political agenda is to advance.

I've always thought that Mardi Gras was the shining example of how radical vision, and moderate pragmatism, combined brilliantly — and transsexuals have played a small part in that. I believe we'll all be losers if transsexuals are given the cold shoulder and told to go it alone.

Graham Carbery is secretary of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives and happened upon the Lobby meeting while holidaying in Sydney. The views contained within are personal and do not necessarily reflect those of the Archives.

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Lobby hears many sides of queer debate

from page 4 here on Oxford Street; people who are arguing that as soon as a gay or lesbian has a heterosexual relationship, or puts on a frock or a moustache, they are disenfranchised?

"We keep talking about community. Let's have a look at who the community is, and what they do and who they are rather than trying to impose our own politically correct restrictions. When we start to restrict people's rights on the basis of their identification, or who they fuck, then we are no better than our heterosexist oppressors," Welby said.

Carole Ruthchild, a former Lobby co-convenor, said an enormous number of groups were oppressed: "Now may be that when we act politically, we may wish to work together with other organisations, with other individuals, where their interests coincide with ours and where we can seek to gain common cause through that association ... Let's not be foolish in thinking that because we have an organisation that has, through a quirk of

history, managed to achieve some gains, let's not forget that the battle is not won ... We are a small group of people. We can get nowhere without the concept of identity."

"Many articles have appeared in the press over the past few months on the issue of queer rights which have spoken about the breaking down of identity politics. I would say that is absolutely foolish if we are going to get anywhere with political, civil and human rights."

Roseanne Bersten, identifying as bisexual, said she had no quarrel with the motion to affirm gay and lesbian rights: "My objection is to the resolve to resist any change. The community is fluid. I don't see how promoting gay and lesbian rights is in conflict with promoting the rights of people to be bisexual, to cross-dress or to have transgender issues."

Larry Galbraith, former Editor of the *Star Observer*: "This motion is not about denying a voice to transgender people, to bisexuals, to queer activists, it is not about

stopping men in frocks taking part in Mardi Gras. This motion, to me, is about setting out the objects and aims of this organisation, re-affirming them and, I would hope, setting the priorities of this organisation. If this motion is defeated we are saying this is going to cease to be a gay and lesbian organisation focussing on gay and lesbian issues and we might as well pack up shop and go home."

Kath Lawrence: "Rights are about what we do, and protecting our rights to do what we do and how we behave. If we link rights to people or personal identities, I think it is a very dangerous step ... I think it's absolutely essential that we deal with this question of rights, and not with rights depending on behaviour and on identity."

Speaking last, Jane Clements, the Lobby's new female co-convenor: "This is not a social group. We are a political lobbying organisation open to anyone who supports the aims and objectives of the GLRL. That doesn't mean we have to take on everybody's issues ... When a bisexual woman is sleeping with another woman, the rights that she is fighting for are lesbian rights ... when a bisexual woman is sleeping with a man, what rights does she want? ... I don't want to see the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby diluted by other issues."

Re-elected to the GLRL Management Committee were: Paul Costello, Tully McGann (secretary), Paul O'Grady, Henry Collier and Andrew Carter. New members are: Jane Clements, Adrian Culey, Mathew Hua, Kerry Parnell, Happy Ho, Paul Zikking, Stevie, Julie Price, Jaz Ishiar, and David McLachlan.

From *Sydney Star Observer* April 30th

Queer 1

Dear Editor,
So "queer" doesn't mean homosexual anymore, according to Craig Johnston. So what the fuck does it mean?

For that matter, I reckon "gay" is a pretty wussy, limp-wristed, insignificant appellation. Its forerunner, "camp" was at least closer to the point. I rather like "beni" in that it covers other aspects of my personality.

Perhaps we should come up with a brand new word, which has only one meaning, i.e. "homosexual". Something bold!

Of course "homo", literally correct as it is, wouldn't do I suppose, and "friends of Dorothy" is a bit long-winded.

Maybe a referendum is in order. (Get real!). Keep smilin'.

D. Forrester
Darlinghurst

Queer 2

Dear Editor,
I'm writing this as a gay male (capitals or not), involved in gay and coalitionist organisations, and with Queer Collaborations. It's about Queer.

Norrie has been lobbying for explicit inclusion and recognition. Calls have been made to find a word (Homo?) that includes both gays and lesbians (and Norries?).

Earlier in the year Queer Collaborations was to put on a forum on the issue of Queer identity (for various reasons we didn't). Clearly we're talking about our community — or as the *Star* itself (plesasingly) feels — our community of communities (see the *Star's* masthead).

This is great — queer is being discussed by community forums, and by the groups that can do most but won't budge. As noted by Larry Singer's letter (hey girlfriend!) Queer's diversity is the diversity of queers — it isn't about fitting just the lesbian and gay mould. And some people are threatened by this. For (some) lesbians and gays, the issue is: "Who are we?" (i.e. does the gay and lesbian community(ies) represent the "gay attached" too, i.e. trannies and bisexuals, and the supportive straight friends we socialise with? Or is it just "us"? Are lesbians getting a fair deal?).

From — Letters

*Sydney Star
Observer*.

30 April 1993.

For (some) bisexuals and trannies it's: "Where are we?" (arguing that they have always been there in gay and lesbian struggles and the community but have been unrecognised — as clearly the "Gay and Lesbian" block advocates i.e. "Gay and Lesbian" is enough as an identity — it's inclusive and representative enough ... that's how trannies and bis get discriminated against anyway — as lesbians and gays — and so they shouldn't have a problem with this identity that fights to protect them).

Hello out there?
Bis and trannies have as much right as we do to their own identities, their own communities, and to inclusion in our (theirs too) community. Look, they are there, and a bi, tranny, lesbian and gay community isn't a gay and lesbian community. It's something different. It could be a Queer community (and hey, with real affiliations) — bitranlesgay is the alternative.

Reclaiming the word "queer" makes sense in terms of reflecting reality, equity, and in sensible nomenclature.

It's comparable to "Black" more than "Nigger" — all words hurt until you take them back — especially if they fit.

I don't accept Craig Johnston's definition of queer (queer is inclusive and positive, and OUT — that's the point, and it's NOT straight), nor the claim made by himself and Gary Cox that we'd (gays and lesbians) be giving up our identities. Where did that come from?

Be lesbian, and if you see fit to recognise the strength of our allies' arguments, be queer as well. It's *and*, not *or*. Be bi and queer, be tranny and queer. Be gay and queer. Think of your other encompassing identities. Make your "strategic alliances".

With HIV, health, legal and anti-violence campaigns we do work together as a community on common aims — and support one another on aims outside our own tribe/clan/group (how about coalitionism?). And some do more than others — how many gay men are as supportive of tranny interests as are trannies of ours? Why can't we recognise and be strong?

It's not "their gain is our loss". Queer is a good, real, fair and non-threatening word.

Be yourself and give it a go.

It's 1993, people.

Jon Cole
Chippendale



MOUTHING OFF by Stevie

With all of the current debate about transgender and bisexual issues, I thought it would be interesting to see just how accepting the lesbian community is of bisexual women. So, I asked the dykes at the Leichhardt Hotel:

Would you date a bisexual woman?

No, I wouldn't because I want someone who is going to be completely lesbian identified. I don't want to go out with someone who has part of their energy directed towards men. *Debbie* 27

No, because I think it would be too complicated. *Tracey* 25

I suppose I would if I liked them. I've got no problems with it... but I'd be a bit worried about who she had slept with before. I'd probably hesitate on a sexual level because of the chance of disease... in fact I probably wouldn't do it now that I think about it. *Gabe* 44

No, I don't think my ego could cope with it. *Liz* 32

Yes I would. I go for personality not what sex they go for. If they like me it's fine. *Debbie* 26

I would if she were being a lesbian at the time. *Robbie* 32

Besides the fact that I have a girlfriend now, I would have to say yes because I have done it. *Kerry* 26

No, I wouldn't. Women who like women have a better understanding of women. If they have an understanding of men that doesn't count. *Michelle* 22

No, definitely not. It's too dodgy. Emotionally risky. You would never be sure where you stood with them. *Jenni* 27

No, I wouldn't because I think every dyke's fear is that their lover will leave them for a man and that's compounded if you know they are bisexual. *Jane* 22

Sure, why should it matter if a woman is attracted to both women and men, as long as she agrees to have a monogamous relationship with me. *Sue* 24

To tell you the truth I don't know. It would be easy for me to say no, I wouldn't purely on logical grounds but love and lust aren't logical. If I was really attracted to a woman who was bisexual I'm not sure whether I would pursue it or not. *Lisa* 29

From *Lesbians On The Loose* May 1993.



THE BISEXUAL DEBATE

There seems to be considerable confusion over who owns the word "Queer". Queer has historically has referred to mainly men who had sex with other men, who were outwardly homosexual or who were effeminate in behaviour. In the late 1980's a group in the USA called Queer Nation was established to counter homophobia and other discrimination through direct action along the lines of ACT UP. This organisation was made up of not only gay men and lesbians but also bisexuals and transgender people. Their aim in the use of the name was to claim back a word that had been used against them in the past and project power and positivism into it and thus their actions under that

name. Thus people belonged to like tribes within a Queer Nation, eg Lesbian Tribe; Gay Tribe; Bisexual Tribe; Transsexual Tribe; Leather/SM Tribe and so on. Queer should not and never has been the sole property of homosexual men. For many bisexual men and women who have been associated with the existing gay and lesbian communities, the use of Queer Community is a lot more accommodating and inclusive term to use.

For all the bisexuals who do live, work and party in such communities, the issue of acceptance has now become a very strong and driving force. Bisexuals who are not associated with such a community but identify more with the heterosexual/straight community need to offer some support to those bisexuals with a queer identity. *Continued page 6.*

Lobby 1

Dear Editor,
Re: Lobby — Let's not get bogged down!

The Lesbian and Gay community are in a unique position with the balance of power of the State Government being held by independents. Politicians across all party lines are keen to commit to reducing violence and hate against lesbians and gays.

This opportunity should be used wisely. With the Lobby in the midst of a campaign to place anti-discrimination legislation on the parliamentary agenda it is a time for us all to recognise the various talents and contributions all individuals can make in our community.

The Rights Lobby can be seen to be a microcosm of our community. The issues the Lobby face are the issues we must all decide on. The Lobby has grown enormously in its short five year infancy. As it grapples with the demands now placed upon it, I urge all former members and new alike to provide support and guidance to the future directions, you want your lobby to grow in. The Lobby can never be a panacea for all the communities' problems nor address all issues. However it has been a strength that the Lobby has shown a consistent ability to work with other community organisations on issues that effect the community.

The window of opportunity for legislative reform is open to us now, let's not get bogged down, let's not waste this opportunity. Let's regain focus on the key works of the Lobby fighting for Gay and Lesbian Rights!

Tully McGann
Surry Hills

Lobby 2

Dear Editor,
On the night that the GLRL gladly devoured itself, I was busy getting on with my own life. I knew that the meeting would be pre-empted in private.

One side, as I expected, appeared to win, but in actual fact lost. An empire led by corruption and contempt for people's rights, will always defuse its warriors to the level of mere soldiers. I don't care what people want to call themselves, it is entirely on their own self esteem and honour. For me, I am a gay man. My politics is queer. Simple. The Lobby, in the words of the Church Ladies for Choice is "just so special . . ." Those poor dears get so confused. What with their castration complexes, their lack of Hermetic energy, their reptilian minds. Finally the winds will blow and the fight and flight lobby will be extinct if it refuses to evolve.

If they kept their common ground, their quest on top of the agenda and implemented this by secure, solid individuals, then they would realise a common battle.

1. Our rights in NSW are not legally secure. We are only decriminalised; we have a limited legal status.

2. Anti-discrimination is a toothless tiger.

3. The age of consent is still discriminatory.

4. We still have an insufficient resource base.

5. The Summary Offences Act is a time bomb.

6. The Lobby still has no Charter, and fails to fully deliver its own Aims and Objectives.

If we are not led by secure solid warriors keeping the mind on their jobs, then there will always be corruption and disempowerment. Don't be so insecure about change and democracy. Our diversity is our strength. This is something the Lobby has regrettably lost.

Andrew Thomas-Clark
Surry Hills

Lobby 3

Dear Editor,
Being present at the GLRL's special General Meeting on April 20, was heartening, instructive and good fun!

I particularly relished the debate of the motion to reaffirm as the Lobby's objects the protection and promotion of gay and lesbian rights in NSW and to resist any change to those objects in the foreseeable future.

While not denying support for transgender and bisexual issues, those speaking for the motion, defended the necessity of maintaining a gay and lesbian focus in the Lobby's endeavours for both ideological and practical reasons. There are still too many changes to fight for in gay and lesbian civil rights (in immigration, superannuation, same sex spouse entitlements, to name but a few) and an effective Lobby needs a cohesive identity with clearly defined priorities. More than this, part of the battle consists precisely in eschewing the flight to heterosexual privilege which, arguably, is an option open to bisexuals.

On the other hand, the historical contributions of transsexuals to the gay and lesbian communities and the shared concern with freedom of sexual expression were evoked by those arguing that transgender and bisexual issues should be integral to the Lobby's agenda.

Personal testimonies of unfavourable treatment by the gay and lesbian community were offered alongside reminders of the support to be gained by the inclusion of the avowedly huge bisexual constituency.

Both sides of the debate were presented with a passion and intelligence that were totally engaging. Long before I had decided who to cast my vote with, I was elated to be witnessing a public debate of such vitality.

Irrespective of the outcome, the process itself made me feel happy to be amongst the membership of some 100 who had turned up for the night and confident that we do possess the means to define and work towards common goals if only because on this important occasion we demonstrated the maturity (or whatever it is) that makes it possible to "agree to disagree".

Thank you to all who spoke for a memorable and empowering exchange.

Having said all this, and in order to moderate what may sound like unbridled optimism I want to add this: I sincerely hope that all those who testified to unfavourable treatment by our community on the basis of gender/sexual orientation will have less and less occasion in the future to be vindicated.

Kosta Matsukas
Darlinghurst

From Sydney Star Observer
April 30th 1993.

Bisexuality
MY
Basic Instinct

Lobby 4

Dear Editor,

The vote at the Lobby General Meeting to restrict its activities absolutely to "Gay" and "Lesbian" is simply an over-reaction to the rumoured fear that "Queer" politics was about to take over the Lobby. Obviously the majority of gays and lesbians at the meeting were convinced that this was the right decision. The matter, however, is not that simple. We are a "coalition organisation" fighting for discrimination against everyone who belongs to our community.

What is our community? There are many transgenders and bisexuals who self-identify themselves as members of our community. People who have them as lovers can see this clearly. Gays and Lesbians who voted for the motion aggressively refused to accept this . . . How much gays and lesbians have in common. None, but that we both are fighting homophobia.

Bisexuals and transgenders are in the same battle. As a peak organisation for our community, why can't we include bisexuals and transgenders? I don't see any logic in the shaky opinion that dominated the meeting: "the Lobby is going to lose its political focus from Lesbian and Gay issues once bisexuals and transgenders are recognised." People should re-think the reason why gays support "donor insemination" and why lesbians support AIDS and "beat" issues.

I can contrast this to the situation when "Gay Mardi Gras" resisted to change the name to "Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras". This time only, protesters were the minority at the meeting. The repercussions of this shortsightedness may impair the fight for what the Lobby is all about. Majority oppression of minority is the principle we oppose in any discrimination.

Yoichi Takayama
Lewisham

Continued from previous page

Bisexuals are striving for acceptance in both communities. While Biways has had a strong focus on what is happening in the gay and lesbian / queer community it is because many of us are being hurt by what is said and the discrimination that is occurring. We therefore trust that our hetero-bi brothers and sisters will bear with us during this struggle and support us where ever possible.

Out bisexuals are harassed, bashed & abused just as much as out gay & lesbians. Closeted gays and lesbians benefit from heterosexual privileges as much as closeted bisexuals. Unity is what we all need to have equality, understanding and happiness.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Lobby 5

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my great disappointment in the recent Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby decision to exclude bisexuals and transgender people from the constitution.

My connections with the Gay and Lesbian community have included working with the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service (with time as vice-president), participating in fundraising for the Fitness Exchange and fighting a five year court battle because a surgeon refused to operate on me when they discovered I am sexually active with other men.

I've also been at public meetings where I have passionately argued for the inclusion of the word Lesbian in such organisations as the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service.

I am bisexual. I have my own needs and wish to be acknowledged as bisexual NOT homosexual sometimes and heterosexual at others. I do not feel comfortable in straight society and I now feel that I am being evicted, through ignorance and prejudice (heard those words before?), from that very society I have actively supported over the past few years.

I do not wish to steal the agenda from the Rights Lobby and carry it into heterosexuality. I simply want, and need, to be included. I feel greatly hurt and deeply angry that I have been treated with such prejudice.

Simon Ferguson
Surry Hills

Generalising about bi's

Dear Editor,

At a recent public meeting a generalisation regarding bi-sexuals was made. This was that bi's have the chance to hide their sexuality in antagonistic situations and environments by assuming a hetero identity.

In my personal experience, to do this would represent an incredibly self-destructive act, that it becomes impossible to do.

Consequently, my personal sexuality is on record with the Family Law Court and the Department of Social Security (in great detail), and with my family, my friends, and my peers within various community groups and where I study.

I hope in some way to dispel the above generalisation. In the past I made a definite decision to come out, and become a member of our community (as bi). I have never regretted that decision, and find the generalisation (above) distasteful.

Paul Harvey
Paddington

Read My Labia

Georgina Abrahams

Nine friends, all "lesbian" recently attempted, during dessert, what I imagined would be very simple task — to define "lesbian". For hours we debated and still we weren't able to reach agreement. Nine lesbians with nine different understandings — I was intrigued. It was something I had taken so much for granted but we couldn't reach consensus. I'm sure there must be a joke in there somewhere.

This got me thinking about why it is so important for me to consider my life in terms of a conscious identity, with deliberate political decisions and intentional lesbian and gay communities. Shortly afterwards, I was fascinated and confused by the *Mardi Gras Pride and Prejudice* forum where biphobia was dealt with. A number of women disclosed as closet bisexual lesbians, meaning, I think, that they are primarily interested in women and acknowledge their attraction to men which they frequently choose to act upon. Bizarre really — the new lesbian?

These women spoke of the pain of rejection in many lesbian circles and of their lives as mavericks — neither accepted within the lesbian or heterosexual communities. They also spoke of the struggle to defy myths of self-delusion ("You're really a lesbian"), promiscuity, and indecisiveness. Myths that arise amid widespread confusion about sexuality and loyalty. I sat there thinking about the closet het in myself, and in many of us lesbians, if our adoration of Julian Clary is anything to go by.

Clearly, so-called lesbian-identified bisexuals break lesbian rules — about politics, sexuality and closeness with men — and the penalty is distrust. But as lesbian rights are won can the rules for membership begin to relax? Perhaps in the not too distant

future, a welcome from the lesbian community need no longer depend on particular identifying characteristics or even promises of "women lovers only". This suggestion alone would be enough to arouse feelings of betrayal and anger from some lesbians. And understandably so. If nothing else, "lesbian" has the worldwide basic meaning of women who sexually prefer women. I don't want that subverted. And why should bisexual lesbians be allowed to take advantage of lesbian privilege

more than just token dyke bisexual lesbians

when with dykes and of heterosexual privilege when they chose visible relationships with men?

Within both the lesbian and gay communities some bisexuals choose risky visibility while others choose careful secrecy. I think many of us would be surprised and probably alarmed by the growing numbers of bisexual lesbians who visibly function as members of the community. These women make complex choices within and across different periods of their lives. Some lesbians I know define themselves as bisexuals on an open ended theoretical basis, believing essentially we are all bisexuals, making definite choices because we think we have to. But what if we don't have to?

Bisexuality undoes the either/or, lesbian/gay/heterosexual categories. What emerges is a continuum of sexual choices, a continuum that is pretty scary to those of us who have imposed a categorical definition on our

Reproduced from "BURN", May 1993, p70.
with permission.



sexuality (versus those — probably those few — who are in reality completely lesbian or completely heterosexual). Bisexuals do more than reveal a third sexual category. They uncover a range of sexual and emotional attraction and closeness of infinite variety.

To place all human beings into one of two or three sexual boxes is then absurd, denying the breadth and individuality of human sexuality. Such categorisation, whether as theory or political stance, reinforces society's divisions that form the basis of lesbian and gay oppression.

What makes bisexuality even more threatening is that underlying any bisexual identity is the assumption that all sexuality can be chosen, apart from cultural or counter-cultural expectations. Sexuality is then different from race, ethnicity or class background. Bisexual lesbians I've spoken with select sexual partners of the same and different genders and this varies over time and opportunity. These women believe that given the flexibility of sexual choices, even the vision of a continuum falls short of the possible. As gender roles dissolve, individuals can begin to love and make love with particular human beings rather than suffer an inflexible dictate to always choose "a man" or "a woman". Perhaps as heterosexism and sexism dissipate — and the hope here is that both will — sexual preference will become unimportant.

Such choices will become personal preferences without political underpinning's. I must admit, I like the sound of stretching past "man identified", past "woman identified" to a new capacity to self identify: to define ourselves by ourselves.

But we're not there yet and until sexual relationships are selected in an atmosphere of total freedom,

cont' next page

OUR COMMUNITY vs that COMMITTEE

OUR COMMUNITY IS PRESENTLY IN a transitional crisis. For a while we could simply hold the radical view of heterosexual inversion ("you're a straight man, and you like women; I'm gay, and I like men" etc). We turned to early childhood models or said it was genetic; some said it was a political choice, an exercise of freedom. We were lesbian or gay, and we were distinguishable from the straights because we didn't find the other gender sexually interesting, didn't we? Oh no!

But then HIV began to shake us up. Slowly people started getting honest about not so much *who we were as what we did*. On a personal level, bisexuality became an issue for lesbians and gays.

Ten years later, the issues are finally being raised at a political level by a very small number of bisexual activists. How they are treated by their community political representatives will greatly influence just how much representative power the dominant politicians deserve.

The juncture of the crisis is here and now. Last month the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby Committee expelled its first and only vocal Bisexual/Transgender activist, Norrie-May Welby, from both the Committee and Lobby membership. The Lobby committee would like us to believe it was about Norrie being 'difficult' but fortunately few have fallen under the Committee's spell.

"Since the expulsion, I've had so many people coming out in support of me", says Norrie. "And these aren't politicians either. These are people the politicians are supposed to be responsible to. They're saying, we know what the expulsion is about: the Committee just doesn't want transgender and

bisexual issues to be gay and lesbian concerns."

Male Co-convenor, Paul Costello, believes that bisexual issues are not relevant to the Lobby. However, the issues are implicit for two reasons:

1. Many partners of gays and lesbians identify as bisexual or are bisexually orientated, and
2. many self-identified gays and lesbians are themselves bisexually orientated.

Costello's concession that transgender issues are implicit for the Lobby further undoes his point about bisexuality since bisexuality is also a transgender issue.

"It's time for the politicians to stop dictating what they think the community should be, and take a damned good look at what it IS. It is NOT describable as simply gay and lesbian. To do so is a gross over-simplification" says Norrie. "If this was simply an issue of me being a 'difficult person', why not give me the option of resigning? Not only was I expelled from the Committee, but also from the Lobby membership. This was a blatant exercise in power with the object being to silence the issues I've been raising."

Norrie was elected to the Committee on a Queer/Transgender platform by the membership of over 120 people, and expelled by 6 for raising the issues she was elected on.

The precedent has now been set where the Lobby members affected by marginalised issues (such as bisexuality) will decide to not stand for Committee positions out of fear of Committee persecution; where Lobby members will prefer to not elect people to the Committee who stand on marginalised platforms for fear of

Read my Labia

using labels like lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, makes sense as personal, psychological and political tools. In fact, it's probably true that many bisexual women owe their growing visibility and freedom to act on their desires to lesbian and gay activists and feminists who have demanded sexual rights.

In an article titled *We Should Be There Bi Now* in the latest issue of *Rouge* (UK), Jo Eadie argues that the assumption that we will settle as either lesbian or straight simply doesn't fit the reality of most people's lives. And that "as bi activists have started to reread gay history, bisexuality was at one point included within 'gay' as were women who loved women. The

cont' from p7.

From Burn, May 1993.

division of 'gay' into gay men and lesbians has erased bisexuality from the equation."Indeed, it's true that many women reclaimed as lesbians by feminist historians actually led bisexual lives. I think it's great that distinct bisexual support groups are emerging and that more of our lesbian and gay services recognise that bisexual people exist in our community and have specific issues that need attention without losing our lesbian and gay focus and agendas. I know it's all too easy to put the idea of lesbian identified bisexuals into the too hard basket. But these women's experiences echo lesbian experiences of coming out: they are misunderstood and mistreated because they break

cultural rules about intimacy, sex and gender. The core of bisexual women's oppression is lesbian oppression. Heterosexist society defines bisexuals based on their lesbianism. They are not 50% oppressed. It would seem that the bisexual experience can be less than the best of both worlds. Bisexual lesbians persist in these choices despite the pain of a path apart from recently developed mores of lesbian culture. I congratulate these women for conspicuously reopening the issue of sexual choice and see them as significant and challenging allies. Fluid, ambiguous, subversive — bisexuality can no longer be ignored.

HETERO BIS

The Australian Bisexual Network and the various state networks and groups consist of diverse people who may call themselves bisexual or just plain sexual people.

Some may proudly cry out they are Bisexual, others may call themselves Bisexual Queers or Bisexual Lesbians or Gay Identified Bisexuals and some of you may call your self almost straight. We, who have a queer community attachment do recognise this diversity and recognise those bisexually active people who identify with straight society.

Many Hetero-Bis are married or in opposite sex relationships where their partner, family, friends and workmates do not know and would not understand their bisexual desires and actions. We must all respect the decision of each and everyone of us to be safe and happy in our personal lives.

ABN recognises that for many Hetero-Bisexuals that possibility of going to a bisexual group meeting or function may be threatening to their anonymity, for other it may mean they have to acknowledge personally that they are bisexual and are not yet at a stage to do so. Others may just not need to mix socially with other people who share only one facet of their life. This ABN accepts but ABN is trying to develop broader understanding of bisexuality and provide support and social networks to those who wish them or need them. It is for these reasons that ABN calls on all of us to support ABN and the state networks. You do not have to be out and public, you do not have to go to meetings, all you have to do is support the groups through subscriptions to the newsletters, financial memberships, contributions of material for newsletters or behind the scene work.

We need the support of ALL not just a few. Many took enough interest in the newsletter to send an SAE for an initial copy. Continue your association with ABN by continuing to receive Biways newsletter. Send some stamps or subscribe or send in a story or poem or cartoon.

HETERO BI PRIDE

A HERSTORY

BY MARGARET

How do I know that I am bisexual? This is a question I have been asked a few times (mostly by lesbian identifying women). I guess really I've always seen myself as sexual. No prefix, just sexual.

When I being asked for a label became frequent, I looked back to when I was about 16. I remembered reading a book somewhere in the sexuality literature of the 70's, that had three neat little paragraphs in the last chapter or the appendix that went:

Hetero Sexuality is ...

Bi Sexuality is ...

Homo Sexuality is ...

Well the middle one was the least limiting and the most accurate. Somewhere back in my head I heard "Hmm that one will do", it best fits how I feel about people. So that's the one I came to see as part of me.

I can't think of a time since I became sexually aware, that I haven't found some men and some women interesting romantically, sensuously, sexually or physically. There has been varying degree's of interest, but I wonder how much that had to do with availability and current personal issues.

I am going out with a woman now, after having had "relationships" with men and affair's and liaisons with women. It is very different, but I like it so far. She asked me how do I know I'm not "on the turn"? (I am getting rather woman focussed). Perhaps it's got something to do with the effect that the smell of a sexy man has on me...:-)

It is difficult for me to talk about 'coming out' because I don't think I have ever had to. My whole adult life has been a continual exploration as far as sexuality goes; I hope it continues to be the interesting journey it has been so far. There has been no trauma, as for me it is a natural extension of my sexuality to explore relating to women as well as to men. Each within the context of where I am, have been, will be, in my life's journey.

NEW ZEALAND Waikato University Student Union has created a position on their executive of Sexuality Representative, following a petition organised by gay, lesbian and bisexual students who felt they were not represented. A spokesperson for the group that organised the petition says the position will be filled by a three member collective, to "represent the three distinctively different sexual cultures . . . I think it is a bold, brave step for Waikato University. This is a blow to homophobia."

BISEXUAL LIVES

My name is Serena Bosworth. I am an 18 year old bisexual identifying woman. I came out about 4 years ago, when my relationship with a close female friend became sexualized. Since then I have felt immense pride and happy contentment in the range and diversity of my sexuality, as well as enjoying the varied and unpredictable responses when I have come out to family, friends (and occasionally complete strangers, during my activist days). I don't recognise any gender preference within my own choices, although I am aware this is not the case for all bisexuals. My coming out process was largely positive, and I urge one and all to display their sexuality with integrity and pride.

Serena Bosworth

What is Bisexuality?

A bisexual person has the capacity to be emotionally and/or sexually involved with women or men. Not necessarily at the same time or with the same intensity. Bisexuality is a natural part of the range of human sexuality.

Marginalisation

Many people who are bisexual feel marginalised. Doubly so as we can be rejected by both the straight and the lesbian and gay communities. This can make us feel angry and isolated. As with anyone, we need to feel free to be who we are, without fear of being judged or socially ostracised.

Visibility

Bisexuality has been socially and politically invisible in Australia. We need to know that we are not alone and in fact there are many bisexual people around us. Increasing our visibility in the community is an important way of combating this isolation.

Building Bridges Between

Many times I have been called a fence sitter, or confused. I have to make a choice them or us gay or straight. But why? Why does there have to be a fence? Lets tear down the fence and build a whole new garden!

Margaret

ADAM & EVE

The Story on Adam and Eve will be continued in the July issue due to space.

DIVERSE DESIRES

A brief biography

by Roger

Stubbornly, with determination I resisted. I knew and experienced emotional and sexual desire from an early age as complex, broad ranging and variable. It was and is still not a simple attraction to one gender or another. It was and is not fixed to one pattern of attraction, lust or pleasure.

I grew up in Sydney in the 1960s and 1970s. All around the social pressures were immense. Pressure to be straight. The dominant message from Australian society at large, from friends, from media, from the small minded cramped existence of conformity was to be straight. Heterosexuality: boy with girl, girl with boy, dates, sex, coupledom was the way to go.

I was lucky. My parents had broader views. I came from a family where social dissent and difference were the norm. My parents not only spoke and thought about the great social issues of the period but also acted and lived these out. These roots gave me the confidence and the courage to be different from the carefully constructed heterosexual norm.

And the options? The alternative role models? Well you could be gay. Boy with boy, more boys, couples, triples - the limits were those of the imagination. Revel in lust. Take pleasure when and where it suited. Commit yourself to sexual and emotional relationships with those of your own gender. Throw off the straight jackets of the heterosexual world and

take control of your homosexual identity. Choose. Be gay. Identify with this 'new' thrust of masculine culture.

The script is remarkably the same. The pressures strangely familiar. Be black or white. Choose. Fit neatly into one box and stay in it. Fix yourself to gender and sex. Do not change.

But I like men and women - emotionally, physically, sexually, wholly! Not all the time. Not in the same way. Differently. Variably. Sometimes together. Sometimes apart. Sometimes more one than the other. I celebrate sexuality in multiple difference, variations, possibilities and moments.

This does not mean I'm a tart nor does it mean that I fear commitment. It means that I recognise and act on complex emotions and desires. And it means transgressing social norms - both those of straight as well as gay and lesbian cultures.

I am not alone. There are a lot of like minded souls out there. Late last year a group of us came together to establish the South Australian Bisexual Network (SABN). The network is part of a national and international movement striving to widen the discussion and experience of sexuality as well as promoting acceptance of sexual diversity.

The movement is broadbased. We welcome people of all ages, genders, ethnicities,

cultures and sexual orientations who are sympathetic to the network's objectives. We are students. We are parents. We are workers and unemployed. We are transsexuals. We are singles, couples and more.

We get together for social and political reasons. To discuss and articulate ideas about sexual diversity. To minimise social isolation and create a visibility in the wider community. We dance, we sing, we argue and debate.

We take pride in recognising and appreciating sexual diversity. To know we are not alone in our difference is empowering. To feel good about who we are and what we want to be is a thrill. Whatever label you may use - bisexual, lesbian, gay, straight or none at all - let us not trap ourselves within definitions and build walls of intolerance between us. Let us strive to move identity beyond sexuality.

Bisexual Tribe
QUEENSLAND BISEXUAL NETWORK

Bisexual Nation

UK Plans for an all-night Pride Ball in London have been cancelled after organiser, Adrian Flack, failed to find a suitable 10,000 capacity venue. Flack says there is no hint of homophobia in the decision by local councillors, who said the time scale was too tight to organise such a large event on council property. Meanwhile, the Pride March through London is set for June 19, ending with a festival in Brockwell Park, a week before the Euro-Pride event in Berlin on June 26.

MICHAEL'S STORY

My name is Michael, and I am a bisexual. I am also many other things. I am the oldest Australian-born son of Italian immigrants. I am divorced, have no children, and work as a public servant, (at least until I get my redundancy payout in June 1993).

I list these " other things ", not only to show that I am made up of much more than just my sexual preference, but also as indicators of some of the major influences in my life that led me , or allowed me to conclude that I am bisexual.

Firstly, being brought up in a very traditional Italian family in Adelaide, I was " conditioned " both subtly and sometimes quite blatantly, to believe that I should live at home with my family, until I reached my early twenties, and then marry an Italian woman of similar background to my own. After some half-hearted attempts in my late teenage-years, to fight this perception of how I should live my life, I gave in to what was expected of me. This marriage ended after nine years, in November 1991, and I was 32 years old at that time.

During most of my marriage, I only ever showed mild inklings of interest in gay lifestyles. (I say gay, because I did not realize until much later that bisexuality was a viable alternative to being straight or gay). This interest was exhibited mainly by reading articles or watching television programs on this subject. It was not until the last year of my marriage, that I seriously started to question my " heterosexuality ". I started to admit to myself that I was curious about exploring what an emotional and sexual relationship with another man would be like. So I did it, and I found it both emotionally and sexually satisfying. However, this relationship only lasted several weeks, for a variety of reasons, and ended co-incidentally with the end of my marriage.

With my marriage separation, and not having children, I gained both physical and pyschological freedom to explore this part of my sexuality further. I did this through the gay clubs in Adelaide. But after several months, I started to realize that I was still attracted to women, even though I had been concentrating on men quite intensely. This led me to seek counselling through Gayline, which indirectly led me to be involved with the beginnings and formation of the South Australian Bisexual Network. It was through this Network that I began to realize what I had believed instinctively all along, that I was bisexual. More specifically, I have realized that I have a stronger interest in women than men. In percentage terms, this would probably be expressed as a 70/30 split, women/men. However, this does not , in my opinion, make me any " less bisexual "than another male whose preferences are more inclined to men than women. *Continued next page...*

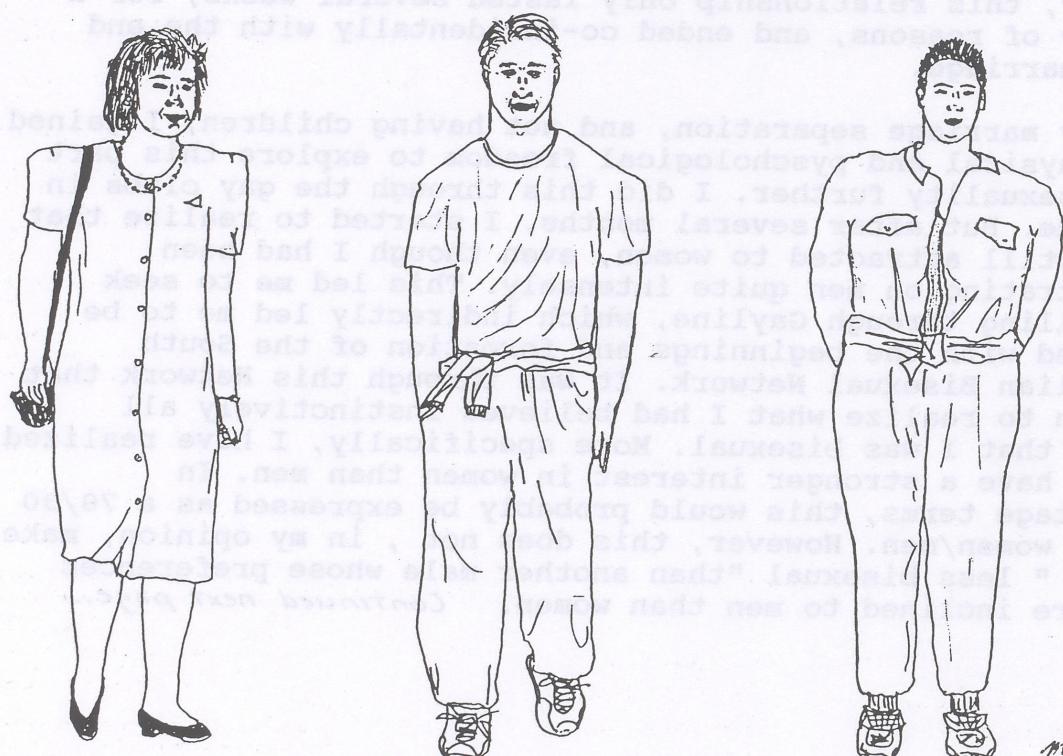
In short, I have travelled a long road over many years, to reach this level of understanding and self-acceptance of my own sexuality. Sometimes, I wish it could have happened sooner, and with less heartache, but then with hindsight I realize that my life probably just had to work itself out, the way it has.

Lastly, and hopefully on a more positive and self-determinist note, I mentioned my impending job loss and redundancy payout, because I believe that far from being a disaster, the financial independence that this could bring, at least initially, and the time and freedom it would allow me to have, will enable me to truly start " living " my life. That is, to further investigate my sexuality, and the area of sexuality in general. To perhaps undertake some tertiary studies in this or a related area, and hopefully to eventually earn some income from my interest in this area. Finally, I leave you with a quotation, which has inspired me to try and begin to live my life more fully NOW!!, and NOT ! some time in the future:

" The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon,
but that we wait so long to begin it ".

IMAGES OF BISEXUALITY

Bisexuals Are Everywhere



Mal 93

Bisexuals in huge Washington march

The 1993 Freedom March on Washington was an historic event not only as the largest civil rights march in American history, bringing one million people to the nation's capital, but also as the first national march in the United States to include Bisexuals in its title.

The march, according to New England region organisers Victor Raymond and Laura Perez, was a snapshot of the state of queer liberation.

"As bisexuals, we do not get half-bashed or only partly discriminated against, we don't lose half our children or half our jobs," Raymond said.

Perez: "It may be our struggle for sexual freedom and liberation

and their inherent links to sexism, racism, classism, ableism, ageism, and all other oppressions is that which unites us."

Phyllis Randolph Frye, an out transgendered attorney, is lobbying for transgender inclusion in the march title: "They used to say gay. Then they learned to say lesbian and gay. Now they are learning to say lesbian, gay and bisexual. Insist that they learn to say lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender."

The march demands reflect the state of the queer debate in the US. We demand:

1. The passage of a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender civil rights bill and an end to discrimination by state and

federal governments including the military; repeal of all sodomy laws and other laws that criminalize private sexual expression between consenting adults.

2. A massive increase in funding for AIDS education, research, and patient care; universal access to health care including alternative therapies; and an end to sexism in medical research and health care.

3. Legislation to prevent discrimination against Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered people in the areas of family diversity, custody, adoption and foster care and that the definition of family includes the full diversity of all family structures.

4. Full and equal inclusion of

Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered people in the educational system, and the inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender studies in multicultural curricula.

5. The right to reproductive freedom and choice, to control our own bodies, and an end to sexist discrimination.

6. An end to racial and ethnic discrimination in all forms.

7. We demand an end to discrimination and violent oppression based on actual or perceived sexual orientation/ identification, race, religion, identity, sex and gender expression, disability, age, class, AIDS/ HIV infection.

From *Sydney Star Observer* 30 April 93.



BISEXUAL CONFERENCE WESTERN REGION PACIFIC RIM

Friday evening, October 22
through
Sunday, October 24

CONFERENCE BI DAY PARTY BI NIGHT

Workshops - Panels
Presentations - Socials
Entertainment - Attractions
Black's Beach (naturist)
and more!

EXPERIENCE BI BLISS IN SAN DIEGO!

Sponsored by:
San Diego Bisexual Forum

BIWEST 1993
6231 Branting
San Diego, CA 92122
(619) 259-8019

For a
registration form
write to:-

Australian Bisexual Network
P. O. Box 490
Lutwyche Qld. 4030.

Sunday Evening:
San Diego Bi-Social
Garden & Jacuzzi Party

TOPICS:

Bisexual Relationships
Bisexual Politics
Sexual Orientation Grid
AIDS & Safe Sex
Religion & Bisexuality
Bisexuality: Spirituality & Sexuality
Transculturalism & Bisexuality
The Bisexual Married Man
Feminism & Bisexuality
Sensuality & Intimacy
Straight Spouse, the Other Closet
Bisexuality, Erotica
and the Sex Industry
Bisexuals & the Lesbian/Gay world
Bisexuality: a Comic View
And many

ENTERTAINMENT:

Friday Evening:
Welcome Reception
Bisexual theater, singers
& other performers

Saturday Evening:
Pre-Halloween Ball
MOST EROTIC COSTUME CONTEST
Mexican Buffet,
and other attractions...

Sunday Afternoon:
Beach Party
Bisexual Basking on San Diego's
Clothing Optional Black's Beach



★ ASLEEP AT THE DESK ★

Johnny, are you queer?

Events in Sydney in recent weeks have sent a clear message to Australia's gay and lesbian communities that 'Queer' politics has sailed into Port Jackson and is determined to establish a colony in this country.

The use of 'queer', as a blanket term for people who do not identify with mainstream genders and sexual identities — male, female, heterosexual — is an American invention which has already been exported to the UK. What this effectively means is that transgender and bisexual people have staked a claim in the gay and lesbian political and cultural arena.

The battle over queer politics is raging in Sydney, and the term 'old guard', has already cropped up to describe those who have reacted badly or cautiously to the push. Yet it seems only yesterday that gay politics was raising its voice and the followers of camp became the 'old guard'.

The issues surrounding bisexuals and transgender people and their relationship with the gay and lesbian communities are very complex. Is the issue of transsexuality a sexual orientation issue or a gender issue? Is the bisexual lobby (is there one?) launching an assault on heterosexual institutions with same gusto that it appears to be applying to gay and lesbian institutions? If not, why not?

No individual or group should assume that they have an automatic right to a slice of a cake that someone else has baked and, similarly, no individual or group should decide they do not. Playing the politics of guilt will achieve nothing but deep division, fear and loathing.

Let us assume that the bisexual movement does indeed boom. Does this mean that gay and lesbian people, wanting and deserving gay and lesbian space, have to tolerate an explosion of heterosexual behaviour at Mardi Gras and Sleaze parties, for example? Mardi Gras was not built on these grounds and the end result of such a change will be the swallowing up of our culture in the dominant paradigm.

For those who have been active in gay and lesbian circles for many years, part of the problem in coming to terms with queer politics is similar to that faced by older Australians who fear an Asian invasion of their country. It is a fear of losing their identity and yet, realistically, what will it matter to them if in twenty years time half of the population is of Asiatic origin?

A decision has been taken in some quarters that gay and lesbian politics is dead, and that queer politics has replaced it. Given the destruction that queer politics has wrought on groups such as Queer Nation and ACT UP in the US, it seems ill advised to import it lock, stock and barrel before examining the outcomes. Adopting a Stalinist 'politically correct' line, and trying to be all things to all 'queers' is more likely to create stagnation and spiraling conflict than serious progress.

If it proves viable and dynamic, queer culture will eventually supersede gay culture, just as gay culture has swallowed camp culture. Many young activists, the children of political activism in the 80's are already embracing that culture. The process by which that takes place should rely on conciliation rather than guerilla warfare.

STONEWALL 26 JUNE 1993

SYDNEY

UNDER THE BANNER *We Are Family*, THE 1993 Stonewall march in June will be a night-time pilgrimage from Taylor Square to Kings Cross along the historic route of the first Mardi Gras in June 1978, which ended in 53 arrests after police and marchers clashed violently.

This year's march in Sydney on June 26 commemorates the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York, which mark the founding of the international gay and lesbian liberation movement. It is also the anniversary of Sydney's first Mardi Gras, an event which 24 years later attracted half a million spectators to emerge as one of the world's biggest celebrations of lesbian and gay sexuality. Lance Gowland, a veteran of the '78 march, remembers the night of June 24 as "a turning point for gay and lesbian politics in Australia".

"The vicious attack by the NSW Police on our peaceful procession at Kings Cross that night outraged gays and lesbians. We were united as a community as never before," Gowland said.

"In the 12 months that followed, we were caught up in a civil rights struggle demanding the dropping of all charges against those arrested," said Gowland, who is also a member of the '93 Stonewall Committee.

On June 24, 1978 about 1,000 lesbians and gays marched down Oxford Street celebrating 'International Gay Solidarity Day'. On the same day in San Francisco, 240,000 people turned out to remember Stonewall.

A young gay man filmed in Darlinghurst Road against a backdrop of graphic scenes of violence told the camera: "They just arrested people and threw them in the paddy wagon. I saw people being dragged by the hair, punched in the face . . . every single right that a person is entitled to in Australia has been blatantly denied them by the police."

"Let them go, let them go!" the now angry crowd chanted during a vigil outside the notorious Darlinghurst Police Station.

The now classic documentary *Witches, Faggots, Dykes and Poofers* is a remarkable record of the events of that night. Feminist film-makers on hand to shoot footage for a documentary about a lesbian mother's struggle for custody, captured instead historic footage of police bashing and arresting lesbians and gays.

Jude Kuring, who narrates *Witches, Faggots, Dykes and Poofers*, was one of 24 women arrested and held for six hours in a cell built for two people.

Two days later, on June 26, the charges were read in court. There were three charges of assault, one of malicious

injury (to a police uniform); five of failure to observe a direction; nine of resisting arrest; four of offensive behaviour; 10 of unseemly words; 18 of hindering police and 19 of unlawful procession.

Demonstrators were met with the unprecedented sight of police barricading the court entrance. Despite requests by the Magistrate, the court remained closed and there were seven more arrests.

On July 15, 3,000 people marched as part of the campaign to "drop the charges" including large numbers from the trade union movement and the women's movement. A protest song popular at the time spoke to the sentiments expressed that day: "Get your laws off my body, I want them outta my head. It's none of your fucking business, what I do in bed . . ."

When the march finished, there was a 'Speakout' outside the Darlinghurst Police Station. Kuring takes up the story: "Unknown to the demonstrators there were bus loads of police waiting in the vicinity."

There were 14 more arrests.

Another chapter in the 1978 struggle for lesbian and gay rights was written at the 4th National Homosexual Conference in Sydney which was addressed by the then Attorney General, Frank Walker, who was not prepared to sign a petition to Parliament to have the charges dropped but who publicly conceded he had "hundreds of letters from members of the Labor party and branches of the Labor Party concerned about what happened . . ."

At the same time as the Conference, the Right to Life movement, which was actively campaigning against homosexual law reform, co-incidentally held a rally in Hyde Park. About 300 people from the Homosexual Conference assembled opposite the fundamental Christians in Hyde Park. At Taylor Square there were 75 arrests and 35 more gay and lesbian activists were arrested at Hyde Park. Since the first Mardi Gras in June, the number of arrests had risen to 184 in the cause of challenging the supremacy of heterosexuality.

Out of the closet

There were many casualties but activists agree 1978 was the year the closet doors were kicked in: "We had been forced into invisibility to allow other people to feel comfortable" was how one of those arrested described her decision to come out.

One year later, Sydney hosted its second Mardi Gras. One thousand people marched and rallied and partied in gay and lesbian solidarity.

In 1993, Stonewall organisers have adopted the theme 'We Are Family: Lesbians, Gays, Bis, Dragqueens, Trannys and People Living With HIV and AIDS'. Urging the communities' support, Gowland said: "It's a great opportunity to celebrate our unity and our right to publicly proclaim our sexuality."

The Sydney Bisexual Network will be marching in the 1993 Stonewall March. We want as many Sydney and New South Wales bisexuals as possible to get along to Taylor Square on the evening of June 26th. With all the shit that has been going on since the GLRL decision we must show our presence and participation. If you are worried about family or friends seeing you then wear a mask but be there and march. This is for our rights too. Give Kate a call on (02) 698 1801 to find out the exact time and assembly location.

PERTH
BISEXUAL PRIDE
STONEWALL 26 JUNE 93

Stonewall in the city

The Stonewall Union of Students (SUSWA) has called upon Perth's gay and lesbian community to support activities for International Stonewall Day, which will be celebrated in WA on Saturday June 26. Stonewall Day actually falls on Sunday day 27.

People wishing to participate in the 24th anniversary of the gay and lesbian revolution in New York should assemble in Forrest Chase near the stage at 1.00pm.

SUSWA's current convener, Cristina Katya Sagaia, said this year's Stonewall Day action would be in the form of community interaction among the Saturday afternoon shoppers.

Rather than carrying banners, participants will be handing Stonewall badges and selling T-shirts.

Participants are asked to wear one of the six colours of the Freedom Flag: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet.

Following the events in the city malls there will be a picnic at the Court Hotel so participants are advised to bring a picnic basket.

Posters advertising the event will be placed in venues and other gay and lesbian friendly outlets in Northbridge.

The last Stonewall march was held in Perth in 1991 and wound its way through the streets of Northbridge before turning into the Murray Street Mall and startling shoppers with the amount of colour and noise it provided. □

Perth bisexuals should rally together and support Gordon, Joshua, Kathy and Wesley who are hoping to resurrect the Western Australian Bisexual Network. Get in touch with Gordon on (09) 345 1720 and see what you can do. Go along to the Stonewall activities in Forrest Chase in the City and show some pride. If you want some badges the contact ABN and some will be sent over.

There is also the planned Police Summit between WA Police and the gay and lesbian community at Grace Vaughan House, Stubbs Terrace, Shenton Park on Monday June 28th. Don't allow the gay and lesbian community to hijack all the debate. We have issues that need to be addressed. Wayne was a part of the process when he lived in Perth and now they have forgotten our issues such as bisexual men outed to family and friends as a result of arrest at beats. This can result in marriage breakup for those that are married, loss of children, mental illness and suicide. Bisexual men and women are also harassed, bashed and may be the victims of blackmail. If you can go along for the 7.30 meeting to put a bisexual voice forward then ring Darren Ray on (09) 328 5075 and tell him you wish to attend on behalf of Perth Bisexuals.

SYDNEY
BISEXUAL NETWORK
STONEWALL 26 JUNE 93

Stonewall '93 Demands

- An end to all HIV/AIDS, sexual, gender and racial discrimination; in particular in the areas of family diversity, foster care, adoption, and child custody
- Stronger legislative protection from discrimination against sexual minorities; no exemptions for insurance and private schools
- Reproductive freedom and choice; access for lesbians to donor insemination programs; protection of reproductive rights of women with HIV
- Repeal of summary offences legislation; an end to arrests at beats
- Equalise the age of consent for sex between men
- Increased resources for HIV education, care, support and research
- The guaranteed right of people faced with life threatening illness to choose treatments they deem beneficial to themselves including experimental drugs, and the right to choose how they want to die.

Placebo trials are inherently unethical when they are the only means of access to particular treatments and should be abandoned. Criteria for the approval of drugs and treatments should be standardised on an international basis so as to facilitate worldwide access to new drugs and treatments

- Social and legal recognition of same sex relationships
- Redefine family to include the full diversity of household structures and relationships
- No restriction on international movement or immigration of people with HIV; no quarantine
- Explicit, sex positive education programs in schools which affirm the sexuality and dignity of gay men, lesbians, people with HIV, bisexuals and transgender people
- An end to violence against lesbians, gay men, people with HIV, bisexuals and drag queens and transgender people.

BRISBANE



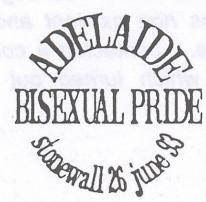
The Queensland Bisexual Network (Brisbane Group) and any other Qld Bis will be marching in the Pride March which departs from Albert Park in the City at 12 noon and goes to Musgrave Park at West End. At Musgrave Park, QBN will have a stall with information, badges and T-shirts. If you can help out at the stall please give Wayne a call at work on (075) 769 033 or be at our planning meeting on the Thursday evening June 24th from 6pm.

We need a good turn out for the March as this will be the first march in Queensland that bisexual people have participated in as a group in their own right. Don't let the side down and give our enemies bullets for their guns. We will be making banners this month so if you can help out at home then get in touch. Support QBN and your fellow Bis.

On Monday June 28th, the actual Stonewall Day, 4ZZZ fm radio in Brisbane will hopefully be having 12 hours of QUEER RADIO. If you want to be involved in some way call Gai of Queer Radio fame on (07) 369 1942 or just ring 4ZZZ on the day with your favourite music request. Remember Queer Radio is on Wednesdays from 6 to 9pm and can be heard on the Gold Coast and possibly the Sunshine Coast.

ADELAIDE

The South Australian Bisexual Network will be active during Adelaide's Stonewall March. The Network has made their banner and members will be marching. Badges and stickers have been prepared for sale and SABN has developed their own brochure to hand out. We want all you Adelaide and South Australian Bisexuals to also come out for the day and march with SABN or help behind the scenes. We must show we are Movement that is not going away and that we will not be silent in our demands for equal rights and recognition in the Gay & Lesbian Communities and Straight Society in general. Ring Margaret on (08) 344 6146 to find out details on the March and other activities.



LETTERS.

Dear Ed,

Thank-you for sending me a copy of the latest newsletter and keeping me in touch with what is happening, now that the Perth Group has collapsed and consequently making it difficult to meet others who feel the same way.

I am interested in continuing my association with the ABN by subscribing to the National BIWAYS newsletter. I must say that since receiving the latest newsletter and seeing all that is being done in other states with the ABN, it is very disappointing that there is a lack of interest in Perth. It makes me think that perhaps I'm living in the wrong place!! Anyway, thank-you for the newsletter and I'll look forward to keeping in touch with ABN.

Yours Sincerely,
Kathy
Perth, WA

Sir,

After reading an article from a copy of Biways Vol.2 No.1, "The Dawning of the Age of the Bisexual Movement in Australia", I was interested to read your comments about bisexuals being a distinctive but repressed group because of stigmatisation by heterosexual and homosexual groups. having experienced mainly male/male sexual contact since my late teens with the occasional experience with women, I feel that this repression has effected me not to explore my own potential bisexuality, always wanting to explore a male/male/female experience having 'stumbled' across it publicly a couple of times but never having known how to find out about it privately. Perhaps Biways may help me with contacts I need. It would be good to be able to contact other bisexuals or people exploring their bisexuality as I think I may be a "closet" ready to "come out" with the right contacts.

All information will be appreciated.

Sincerely,
T. M.
Adelaide, SA.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Sue. I am Bisexual. But I don't know anyone where I live. I live in Toowoomba. Could you please send me information on contacts and the newsletter Biways.

Yours
Sue.
Toowoomba, Qld.

Dear Ed.

I received your newsletter recently, thank-you. There is a God after all!! I was beginning to think that bisexuality was non-existent and I was just a real freak of nature. I contacted a couple of groups in Perth recently which turned out to be money

making schemes. They made me feel sleazy then I received your newsletter.

I understand you need organisers and contacts here in Perth so I would like to offer my services. If I can help in any way I would only be too happy.

Thanks once again. Regards,
Gordon
Perth, WA.

Dear Ed,
Warm greetings from Perth, Western Australia.

Firstly many thanks for responding to my request & sending me a copy of your newsletter. I have found it very interesting.

I am 52 years young, semi-retired & self-employed. My profession is that of being a legal accountant. I have taken a very sincere & deep interest in Bisexuals & Transsexuals & I would like to offer my services in any capacity or helping form a group or whatever in Perth, WA.

If you would be interested in such an offer maybe we could exchange a few other thoughts etc. re: this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Yours Faithfully.
Wesley
Perth, WA.

Dear Sir/Madam,
I am writing to you after hearing about your organisation on the radio talk show on Sunday night. I am a 20 year old Bisexual male really just looking for some friends with the same interests at heart.

So I was wondering if you could send me some information on your group. I also understand that you send out a paper or magazine and would greatly appreciate receiving these and other publications from you.

Also, I was wondering if you have any organisations or social clubs on the Sunshine Coast. So I will hope that you will be in contact with me in the near future.

Yours Sincerely
George
Sunshine Coast, Qld.

(Ed. Great news George, we are planning to establish the Sunshine Coast Bisexual Group. You will have received information on the social meeting by now so we look forward to seeing you at Coolum on the 19 June.)

LETTERS.

Dear Wayne (Ed) and Biways,

I am writing on behalf of SABN, and would like to start by saying that we appreciate the effort involved in single handedly putting together and distributing this newsletter. We recognise and affirm the need for a national voice for Bisexuals. It is with respect to this role as advocate that we feel the need to discuss some issues raised by the edition before last of Biways.

We feel that the photographs published in that edition are very counter productive to our efforts at gaining acceptance and credibility within the community. They reinforce the negative stereotype of wanton promiscuity. We feel that they show a lack of respect to the sensitivity of those coming to terms with their sexuality and the fact that bisexuals are a very varied group. I personally would not feel comfortable giving out that issue to people (particularly women) who come to us looking for information about bisexuality.

It is very important that we look very carefully at the image that we wish to project to the community. This newsletter is the beginning of us forming a national identity and having a national image. We at SABN will contribute as much as possible to providing material and feedback to Biways, so that you do not have to carry the load alone.

We urge you to form an editorial panel so that you can get a consensus approach to content. We would like to see a regular letters to the editor space. So come on all you readers write in!

Please take the issue of being respectful seriously, as you cannot make assumptions about what kind of people are Bisexual.

Yours sincerely

Margaret and the members of
The South Australian Bisexual Network.

(Ed. Margaret, sorry for any inconvenience. The inside cover of the last issue had been an update of an earlier one which had your surname on as a contributor. ABN to my knowledge did not directly send your full name or those of anyone else for inclusion in the International Directory of Bisexual Groups. However it must have originated from an internal contact list given to our Bi groups. Please accept my apologies.)

BADGES and T-SHIRTS.

ABN has thought up some interesting slogans and logos for use on badges and T-shirts. There are also the old favourites you have seen through-out previous newsletter. If you want to purchase any of the slogans as a badge or sticker write to us with the slogan of your choice along with \$2 for badges and 20cents for stickers plus postage.

For T-shirts write to us with your size, colour and the selected design from those given right and a SAE and we will quote you a price.

Dear Wayne,

I would prefer not to have my last name published in any magazine. I don't think that I can have told you this, or if I have, then I have not been clear.

The fact that I always sign my articles with my first name is the result of considered thought. Some editors have asked me if they could publish my last name and I have said no whenever I have been asked.

Could you please ensure that this happens with Biways and any other publication that you supply information about me to. I am writing this for two reasons; 1) I have seen my full name published at the front of Biways, and I would rather only my first name was published, 2) I have just received a International Bi group listing from Cambridge USA which lists SABN. I am happy that we are in the international listing. But they have published my full name - internationally!

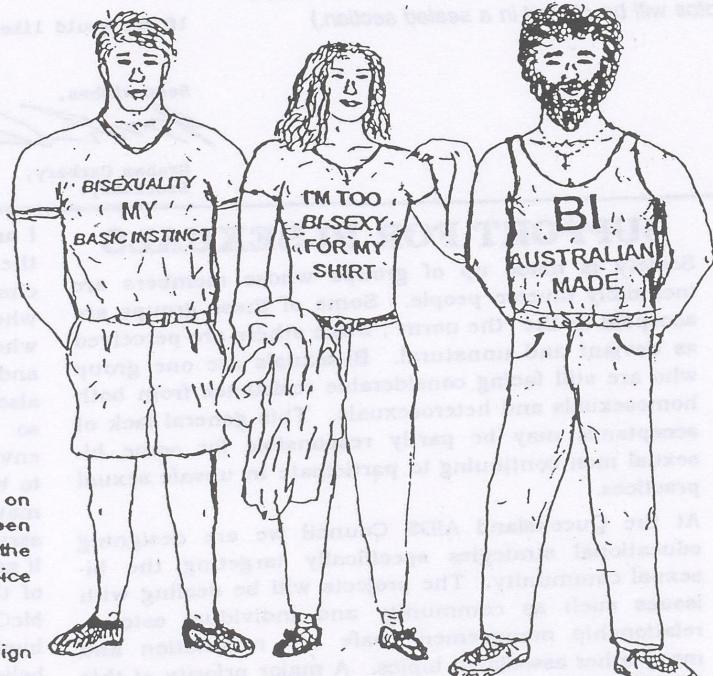
I reserve the right to be selective about the extent to which I am visible.

I am sorry if I seem to be knocking you a lot lately. I really would rather not.

I thought that the last issue of Biways was very good. I particularly liked the letters page. Sorry about not getting our letter faxed to you in time for the last issue. Your call for editorial help was also welcome. I hope the articles we send generate more community input.

Regards

Margaret
Adelaide, S.A.



Models adapted from Mai 93-National BIWAYS March 1993 by L.P.R.

valga

Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives Inc
PO Box 124, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia

AUSTRALIAN

made

Dear Wayne

I love the juice - new look National Biways. Thank you for February's plus April/May issues. I do enjoy the explicit porno photos and stories, even though some people may object to depictions of 'raw sexuality'. I dig it, you dig it, and Biways is the right forum for it. While bisexuality is about loving unions (sometimes), personal identity, the search for our own culture etc, it is also about who we choose to fuck and to a lesser extent how we do it. Looking forward to more gratuitous cheap thrills. Received a copy of Biversity yesterday (31/5) and an invitation to the Melbourne group's managerial meeting in the next suburb to mine. Thanks for putting us together. I have been a self-involved lazy girly since uni started.

I suppose you have been deluged in copies of this enclosed article on Tom Robinson's evolution to bisexuality. Shame he didn't mention the word or call himself that. My boyfriend of 1½ years is also coming to the Vic. Bi meeting on Sunday. Next semester I am considering starting a Gayles and Bi Soc. at Swinburne University, although the problem is in finding fifteen people who are 'out' and willing to contribute \$10 to get a little social afternoon off the ground.

♡ Squazz (aka Susan)
Melbourne, Vic.

(Ed. HEY! Thanks for the offers of help and encouragement everyone. There has been heaps of requests for newsletters over the past month and a half. Great to see so much material for this issue of the newsletter. We of course would welcome your contributions coming in for future issues. As stated last issue, the 'porno' pics came from a straight contact mag and we featured because the mag had introduced a Bisexual section. Straight depiction of bisexuality is usually two women and one (straight) guy. This featured two guys and one woman. Future such photos will be placed in a sealed section.)

An initiative of the Fourth National Homosexual Conference, Sydney 1978

29 April 1993

Australian Bisexual Network
P.O. Box 490
LUTWYCHE QLD 4030

Dear Friends,

I am writing to ask if you would place the Archives on your mailing list for copies of your newsletter 'National Biways'.

I am aware of the current debate going on throughout Australia about the position of bisexuals in the gay and lesbian communities. You will be interested to know that the Archives has a policy of collecting material on issues which affect all aspects of homosexuality. For that reason alone we are interested in receiving your newsletter.

My own personal view is that bisexual issues are gay and lesbian issues and bisexuals should be welcomed within the gay and lesbian communities. I have been around the gay and lesbian political scene for quite a while and I know that many gay and lesbian activists have always opposed the inclusion of bisexuals and bisexual issues. I have never supported that view and welcome the current debate.

Last week I was in Sydney and attended the GLRL Special General Meeting which discussed the inclusion of bisexual and transgender issues in the Lobby's charter. It was a fascinating meeting, and although the 'old guard' won on the night I think the writing is on the wall if the pressure can be kept up. No doubt you will be reading the Sydney papers to gauge the response. I have written a short article which should appear in this week's issue of Sydney Star Observer about my impressions of the meeting as an outsider.

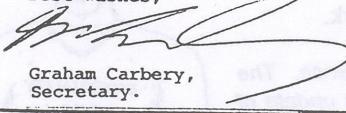
I have enclosed a brochure which will give you an idea of the activities of the Archives. It was produced quite a few years ago now (we are about to have a new one printed) and the collection is much much larger now.

I've also enclosed an article from a Los Angeles newsmagazine on bisexuality which you might find interesting. As well I've included a copy of our latest newsletter.

If possible we would appreciate copies of any past issues of your newsletter so that we have a complete set.

If you would like to know more about the Archives please write to us.

Best wishes,


Graham Carberry,
Secretary.

SUPPORT FOR BI-SEXUALS

Society is made up of groups whose members are incredibly diverse people. Some of these groups are accepted as the "the norm", while others are perceived as deviant and unnatural. Bi-sexuals are one group who are still facing considerable resistance from both homosexuals and heterosexuals. This general lack of acceptance may be partly responsible for some bisexual men continuing to participate in unsafe sexual practices.

At the Queensland AIDS Council we are designing educational strategies specifically targeting the bi-sexual community. The projects will be dealing with issues such as community and individual esteem, relationship management, safe sex negotiation and many other associated topics. A major priority at this time is Bi-line. Bi-line is an information and advice telephone service for bi-sexual men and their partners which operates on a 24 hour basis.

I am very excited about the projects that we have in the pipeline. For these projects to have the greatest chance of success, I need the assistance of volunteers who are either sensitive to the issues of bi-sexuality or who identify as bi-sexual, to give input into the design and the implementation of the various projects. It is also important for us to help develop social networks so that bi-sexual people can have fun in a safe environment. Bi-line also requires volunteers willing to be trained as telephone counsellors so that the line may be upgraded, enabling this essential education service to operate to its fullest potential.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer for any of these projects, please contact Ian Riddell or Sarah McCoy on (07) 846 2770 or (07) 844 1990 during business hours for further information. The Council believes it is essential that people who identify as part of this community become involved in the positive development of their own resources and social support.

BI POETS' CORNER.

by Dianne.

COMING OUT.

Like a flower blooming
In the Spring,
My sexuality
Is coming to the fore.

A feeling of freedom,
Like a bird leaving the nest
For it's first flight,
Flows through me.

After years of deceit
I can finally be myself.
My soul has come to rest.

DSM

UNTITLED.

Words innocently spoken
Can wound like a knife,
Leave an open weeping wound,
That time alone can heal.
Choose words carefully
Before speaking.

DSM

UNTITLED.

A silent epidemic we face--
AIDS the doctors call it,
Viciously attacking
All walks of life.

Race, religion, colour, age,
Sex, gay or straight,
Are no barriers.

Alone and frightened
The casualties fight AIDS
And prejudice.

Walking alone
Waiting for acceptance,
And a cure.

DSM

QUEENSLAND BISEXUAL NETWORK

More Queensland Bi contacts are needed so that Bisexual women and men around the state can speak to or meet with other bisexual people socially. It is hoped that Bisexual groups will then be established in those centres.

It is planned to form a Sunshine Coast Bisexual Group as we now have quite a few bisexual people on the Biways mailing list from Caloundra to Noosa. A social get together will be held at Coolum Beach on the afternoon of June 19th. It is hoped those on the coast will all support a social group in that region.

We also have some Queensland regional Bi people contacts. They are:-

TOWNSVILLE:

Jeny (077) 712511

BUNDABERG/BIGGENDEN:

Brendan - write for phone number

SUNSHINE COAST:

Jân (074) 411222 bus/hrs

(074) 969094 a/h

GOLD COAST:

Wayne (075) 769033 bus/hrs

(07) 8572774 week-ends

QBN welcomes other regional members of ABN to become a contact person for their district or city.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN

BISEXUAL NETWORK

WABN now has a new Perth contact person. Gordon is keen to get the Perth Bi Group operational again but needs your support. Joshua, Wesley and Kathy are three other Perth Bis who are prepared to help out. Can we count on you to turn up at social activities? Give Gordon a call on PERTH (09) 3451720.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

SABN PO Box 3391 Grenfell Street ADELAIDE SA 5000

CALENDAR

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 1993

For more information on any of the events please phone Margaret afterhours on (08) 344 6146 or write to the above address

Welcome to our second calendar of events. It was great to see so many of you turn out to the activities, meetings and socials in the first half of the year. The group is moving from strength to strength because of your involvement. We now have over 50 people on our mailing list.

The bare bones of planned happenings are listed here for the coming months. Meetings are held monthly on the second Wednesday of the month. The popular bi bop and booze is on the third Thursday of the month. It is hoped to have a couple of special activities again like the bi mardi gras party - now wasn't that fun! Stay in touch since plans are afoot. Please contact Margaret with your suggestions if you have a passion for organising things.

A number of Stonewall activities are in gestation. Margaret is again the person to contact for more information. And while you're at it Margaret can also let you know how to buy one of our great new T-shirts or badges.

National Biways the newsletter of the bisexual movement in Australia is appearing regularly. You can pick up a free copy at our regular monthly meetings (while stocks last). However if you can't get along you can ensure you get a regular supply by subscribing directly. Details are enclosed in this mailout.

Hope to see you over the coming months

Roger

ADELAIDE
BISEXUAL PRIDE

Stonewall 26 June 93

JUNE 1993

9 Wed

MEETING - monthly meeting
News and views at our regular venue
7.30pm downstairs, Box Factory
59 Regent Street South, Adelaide

17 Thu

BI BOP & BOOZE AT BEANS BAR
Friendly social chat, bit of a dance and a drink if you wish
9.30pm Beans Bar 258a Hindley St Adelaide

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK
SABN PO Box 3391 Grenfell Street ADELAIDE SA 5000

JULY 1993

14 Wed MEETING - monthly meeting
7.30pm downstairs, Box Factory,
59 Regent Street South, Adelaide

21 Thu BI BOP & BOOZE AT BEANS BAR
Regular get together for a chinwag, latest gossip, game of pool
9.30pm Beans Bar 258a Hindley St Adelaide

AUGUST 1993

11 Wed MEETING - monthly meeting
7.30pm downstairs, Box Factory,
59 Regent Street South, Adelaide

19 Thu BI BOP & BOOZE AT BEANS BAR
Another friendly social chat, dance and a drink
9.30pm Beans Bar 258a Hindley St Adelaide

SEPTEMBER 1993

8 Wed MEETING - monthly meeting
7.30pm downstairs, Box Factory,
59 Regent Street South, Adelaide

16 Thu BI BOP & BOOZE AT BEANS BAR
Yet another monthly social.
9.30pm Beans Bar 258a Hindley St Adelaide



STATE BI STATE

SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

SBN has put out their first newsletter. It is called S.N.O.B. and although the May issue is small, bigger and better ones are on their way. I can remember our first Perth Biways in March 1992. It was only 6 pages, some typed, some handwritten, the rest cut & paste. Any material would be welcome for forthcoming issues of S.N.O.B.

SBN have organised various social activities over the past month including attending a performance of Top Girls at the Wharf Theatre on May 29th and this Sunday June 6th drinks at the Britannia Hotel. They are also putting together a 100-200 word article on what our rights are, for inclusion in the Stonewall Broadsheet. Kate has been attending the Stonewall Commemoration Committee meetings and informs us bi acceptance is alive and well.

LA TROBE UNI BI-FRIENDLY GROUP

La Trobe group have also put out their own newsletter called BIVERSITY. The first issue was out at the end of April and from the sounds of things they now have a May/June one out. May was a busy time with special Bi theme talks on May 10th & 24th and video screenings with all our favourite Bisexual stars or characters on May 3rd, 17th & 31st.

From what Susan said in her letter there is a meeting this Sunday June 6th. We may soon see a Melbourne Network set up. Other news from Melbourne has come from Steve and according to him bisexual activity is becoming the trendy thing to do for many women and couples. One is not saying that all these heterosexual women are swapping over only that they are talking about it and telling each other for a change. Steve had some interesting stories to tell himself. Had me longing to visit Melbourne again.

AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

The national network has been receiving a large amount of mail from bisexual people in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia wanting to receive National Biways.

Greetings to some of our new members, Tony & Alan in Adelaide, Sue, S & J, Carina & Karen in Sydney, Greg in Albury, NSW, J in Newman, WA, Shaun, Dave (2), Guido, John, Chris, Wesley, Gordon, A & D and several J's from around Perth, Beverley, David, Rhonda of Wynnum, Sue in Toowoomba, Robert & Jeny in Townsville, L in Mackay, R in Gladstone, Steven in Rockhampton, Lynda, Kerry, Kellie, Chris, Steve, Margreta, Louise, Tony, Neil, Nigel, Greg, Glen, Paul, Murray, Martin, Terry, Clive, David, Stan, Brian, Warwick, Dianne, Charles & many more from around Brisbane, David, Greg and others from the Gold Coast, Jân, George, Peter, Tony, Adrian, Otto on the Sunshine Coast, Brendan in Biggenden, D in Torquay, Mrs J in Jimboomba. We have also been sent books, newsletters and info from the USA, UK and NZ, invited to contribute to a Youth & Sexuality workshop in Brisbane. There has not been a day go by when ABN has not received mail or calls. Boom on Bi Movement.

QBN BRISBANE CALENDAR

June 1993

Sunday 13th 4.00pm

Chalice House Cafe & Bookshop
549 Stanley Street (near Mater)
South Brisbane.

Bring your stories, poems, writings.

Thursday 17th 6.00pm

Workshop- Banner & badge making for Stonewall Pride March and Fair.

29 - 33 Terrace Street

New Farm. (Building behind house)

Please come and offer your help and put your name down for the 26th. If you cannot come to either why not help out from home before hand. Give Wayne a call. Pizza & drinks provided to all there by 7.00pm. May have another on 24th.

Saturday 19th 2.00pm

Sunshine Coast Bi Group Formation

4 Callen Street

Coolum Beach

Come & support the set up of this group.
Overnight- some beds or bunk on the floor.

Saturday 26th 11.30am

Assemble for Pride March in Brisbane.

Albert Park

Wickham & Albert Streets

City (Look for bisexual banner)

March at 12 noon to Musgrave Park

West End for Fair Day.

Need some people to help set up a table with info etc until March arrives.

Pride Party that night.

Sunday 4th JULY 12.00 to 4.00pm

Bisexual Women's 1/2 Day Workshop and Forum.

For Bi women and their female partners.

Chalice House Cafe & Bookshop

549 Stanley Street

South Brisbane

Open discussion on personal, relationship and community issues relevant to Bi women. \$2 donation. Lunch & teas available. Please book if you will attend.

Coming up for July/August.

Formation of a Gold Coast Bi Group; Bisexual Guys Forum; Ten Pin Bowling and more. Why not send us some suggestions or come to the monthly meeting on the 3rd Thursday.

Bisexual
PRIDE 1993
Brisbane

ABOUT THE COVER & COMPETITION.

Our June cover features the names of people some great, some famous, some just like me, well okay I did put my name there too. All the names have one thing in common --- bisexuality. Some of the people are bisexual men and women, others bisexual active, some are stars or actors who have played bisexual roles in the theatre or the screen and others have been labelled gay in outing campaigns despite their attraction to the opposite sex so they may in fact be Bi.

The Competition we are offering our readers is to name twelve people off the cover who have played bisexual roles on stage or screen. The may be bisexual or not but they have played roles of bisexual men or women (or transvestites) on either stage or television or movies.

The competition closes last mail on July 23rd and the first correct entry drawn from all those received will be the winner of a \$30 gift voucher to the store of their choice, Myers, Darlinghurst Bookshop, whatever. Write you name, address and telephone number on the same page as the 12 names and send it to BI-COMP., PO Box 490, Lutwyche Qld. 4030. The winner will be notified by phone or in writing and arrangements for the \$30 gift voucher made. Details of the result will appear in the August issue of National Biways.

TV Week ad ban 'sickening'

Gay MLC Paul O'Grady has attacked TV Week magazine for banning one of three advertisements promoting peer support groups for young gay and bisexual men.

Speaking at the Sydney launch of the new national HIV/AIDS Fun and Esteem campaign, O'Grady described as "sickening" a statement by the Editor of TV Week, Lawrie Masterton, that the advertisement was a homosexual "recruiting program".

"We must stand up to this ridiculous attitude. You cannot make someone homosexual or recruit them to homosexuality. You are either gay or bisexual or you are not," O'Grady said.

The Which one of us is Gay? ad portrays a cross-section of young, gay men and, according to NSW Campaign Co-ordinator, Aldo Spina, is warm, fun and conveys a sense of inclusion and bonding.

The ad you won't see in TV Week says: "Young gay and bisexual men still face isolation.

Confusion and guilt are still a part of growing up gay. Young gays still need safe sex information. We aim to break the isolation. We want to send out a message that gay people are natural and we're everywhere. We want to let them know that support and information are available."

As young gay and bisexual men are at the greatest risk of new HIV infection in Australia, the advertisements promoting gay peer support groups around Australia, carry a message of tolerance and self-esteem.

TV Week has a large readership of young men under 25, the target group of the Fun and Esteem campaign, funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health. The ad is one of three developed for the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, by the Youth Project Team at the Victorian AIDS Council's Gay Men's Health Centre.

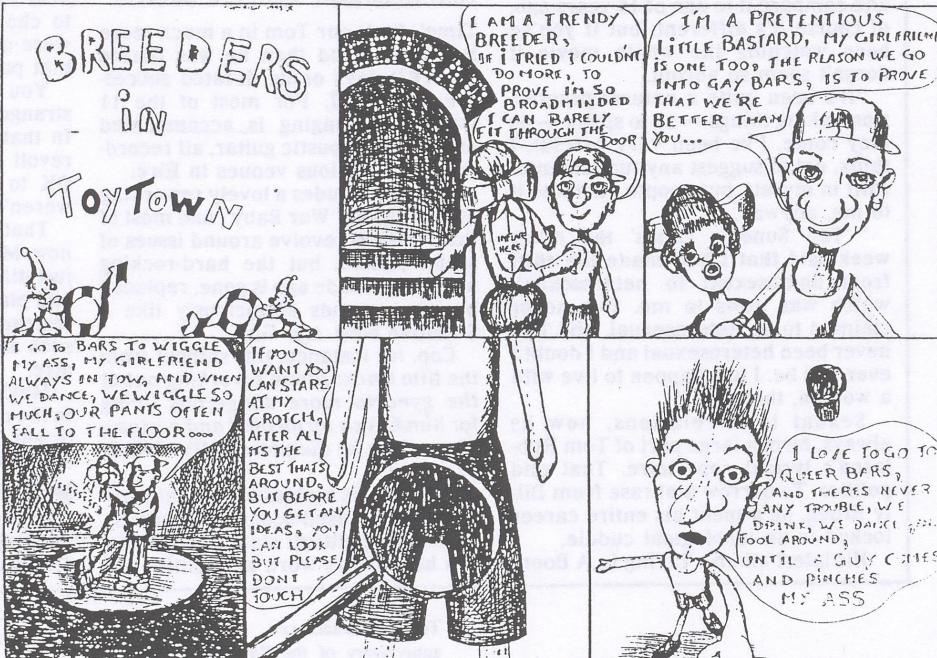
SYDNEY BISEXUAL NETWORK

And Yet Another Meeting Venue....

Our meeting place has changed yet again, this time to the old Children's Court building at 66 Albion St Surry Hills. The front door of the building has to remain locked at all times, however, there will be someone at the door between 7:45 and 8:00 and there is a doorbell. Please try to be prompt.



The other change is that meetings are now held bi-monthly (couldn't resist the pun). On the second Monday of the month the formal business will be dealt with - a process that is now streamlined thanks to our new committee. After a break we can then welcome new members; and do some socialising. The other meeting will be held on the fourth Monday of the month, also at 8:00 at the above address. The next meeting will be on the 14th of June.



This little article appeared in Sydney Star Observer on April 30th. NSW MLC Paul O'Grady was one of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby members that spoke out against the Lobby broadening their platform to encompass bisexual and transgender people. Here he is screaming out about the TV Week refusing to run an advertisement promoting peer support groups for young gay AND BISEXUAL men. Seems a bit silly that one month he votes against bisexuals being part of the Lobby and the next he attacks the Straight media for not including them. Come on Paul, you must realise we should stand together not divided. Recognition and respect is what we want.

Breeders -- what an awful word! This cartoon appeared in Perth's gay community paper, Westside Observer in May. It attacks opposite sex couples who frequent gay/queer bar. It is hateful and distasteful. Not only does it target our straight brothers and sisters but also us as bisexual opposite sex couples. It is as bad as the mainstream homophobic garbage that spreads hatred towards both homosexual and bisexual people. It is insulting to our parents, brothers, sisters and friends who stand by as all as queer gays, lesbians and bisexuals. If you want to complain to the Editor, their address is PO Box 131, North Perth, WA 6006 and Fax (09) 242 2209.

Nowt so queer as Tom

THE AGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Friday 28 May 1993

11

THERE are things in life that are just plain confusing. Why, for instance, do some otherwise perfectly sensible people think blond dreadlocks and floppy woollen caps look real neat?

Why, too, is my coffee jar always empty on mornings when I wake up with a crippling hangover?

And why is Tom Robinson, noted gay activist and articulate one-time punk, now living in intimate union with a person of the female persuasion, sharing the biological and social parentage of a sprog, and performing solo acoustic shows?

There's nothing wrong with a bit of fatherhood, of course, if you like that sort of thing, but it's not the sort of development you'd expect from old Tom, the man who put his mark on the late '70s by loudly declaring that he was as camp as a row of tents.

His song 'Glad To Be Gay', from the seminal 1977 EP 'Rising Free', struck a mighty blow for gay rights and recognition, long before the likes of the Communards, Bronski Beat or Frankie Goes To Hollywood came along. Backed by the rest of the Tom Robinson Band he was a punk poof and proud of it.

And now he's shacked up with a woman and kid. Only one question comes to mind: *Huh?*

"I'm not married and I've got one kid," he says. "The thing is, we're 12 albums down the line from 'Power In The Darkness' (his 1978 successful debut album), so it's been a gradual change. If you take a snapshot of now and compare it to one of 15 years ago, of course it's different; but if you've been watching the whole movie it doesn't seem so abrupt."

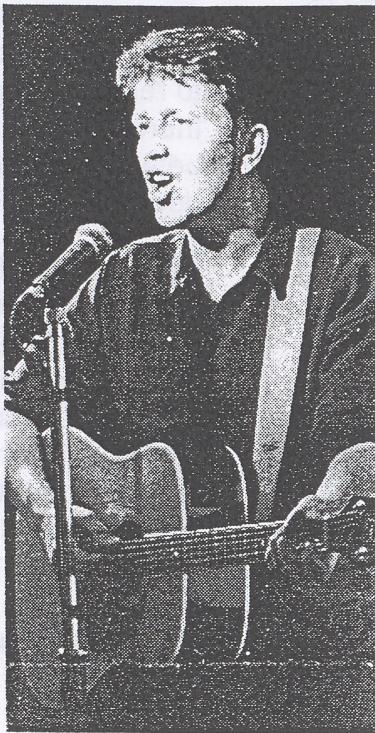
"It's been quite a natural progression, taking things — so to speak — as they come. I've been very careful, I think, not to suggest any fundamental shift in myself, but people attribute it to me, anyway."

"The Sunday Times" the other week said that I had made the shift from homosexual to heterosexual, which was news to me. I've never claimed to be heterosexual, and I've never been heterosexual and I doubt I ever will be. I just happen to live with a woman, that's all."

Sexual inter-relations, now as always, form a large part of Tom Robinson's lyrical repertoire. That and politics. To borrow a phrase from Billy Bragg, he's spent his entire career locked in an ideological cuddle.

His latest album, 'Living In A Boom

The proud punk poofster of yesteryear is a father now, but he hasn't lost his bite. ANDREW MASTERTON talks to Tom Robinson.



Tom Robinson: different strokes.

Time', finds our Tom in a much more laid-back mood than he was during the TRB days or its ill-fated successor, Sector 27. For most of the 11 tracks, his singing is accompanied only by his acoustic guitar, all recorded live at various venues in Eire.

The set includes a lovely reworking of his 1983 hit 'War Baby', and most of the numbers revolve around issues of social justice, but the hard-rocking man of a decade ago is gone, replaced by what sounds suspiciously like a Sensitive New Age Guy.

Cop, for instance, this snippet from the title track: *Jamie's working out at the gym/No more dangerous living for him/Given up alcohol and ecstasy/Ever since he diagnosed HIV. SNAG, or what?*

The song is a pleasantly ironic portrait of privatised economic madness, a succinct political statement. Robinson has always worn his politics out-

front. Strangely, however, he's rather loathe to talk about it, except to suggest that politically literate lyrics such as his are pretty irrelevant when it comes to achieving anything useful.

"I didn't pick up a guitar thinking, how am I going to right all the wrongs in the world? I know, I'll write a song! It didn't fall out like that," he says.

"I picked up a guitar and thought: I want to be famous. I want to be a pop star. I'd like to make music like my idols. I'd like to be like The Beatles. That was the motivation. I wanted to annoy my father as well, but that was a kind of secondary consideration.

"A long way third came the possibility that one could actually convey any sort of political message. In my own mind I'm quite convinced that pop music has absolutely no power to change the world whatsoever.

"The truth of this was bought home to me in 1978, at the height of my 15 minutes of fame, when I was singing 'Glad To Be Gay' to a packed Hammersmith Odeon with 4000 people singing along with every word. I thought, hold on, the world hasn't changed this much, so I stopped the song and kissed the organist.

"A shock wave rippled through these 4000 people. A kind of *eeeeaaarrgggh*. There were two beer boys at the back who'd been singing along, but as soon as I did that, one of them turned to the other and said: 'Here, you know what, I think these geezers are bent.'

"Any kind of illusions I might have held 15 years ago that we were about to change the world through music were quickly put into perspective by that particular incident."

You can see why, but such were the strange politics of the punk flowering. In that brief, phantasmagoric urban revolt it became, for the first time, OK to be gay, just as long as you weren't homosexual with it.

That was then; things are different now. Maybe they're not. Maybe Tom's just different now. He's 40 for a start, and plays a big old wooden six-string. Instead of the Odeon, he plays venues such as The Party Loft in Dun Laoghaire.

Maybe there never was any power in the darkness. The lights are cruelly bright these days, illuminating everything. And still nothing makes sense.

► Tom Robinson plays the Continental Cafe, Greville St, Prahran on Wednesday and Thursday 16-17 June.

Much detail is still to be worked out but it is planned to publish the stories for release in June 1994. People from state groups will be invited or may wish to volunteer to promote the project and act as a collection base in their state. Material must be accompanied by the author's name and address but this will not be published. Pen names can be used and will be published if requested.

This is a daring project that will be the first of its kind undertaken about bisexual life in Australasia. Material can be of any length. More details will be in future issues of Biways.

BI IN THE LAND DOWN UNDER

Bisexual people speak out of life and love in Australia (and New Zealand).

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots on the 26-28 June 1994, the Australian Bisexual Network is calling for personal stories from bisexual women and men, partners, parents, children & friends of bisexual and bisexually active people from Australia and New Zealand. ABN would like as much diversity of bisexual people and their life stories as possible. Bisexual people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and people from ethnic backgrounds are strongly encouraged to contribute thus reflecting the rich diversity we really are.

Submissions can be sent to:
DOWN UNDER PROJECT 94
PO Box 490 LUTWYCHE 4030
QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

LES HILL - Cute Face Nice Bum

There has been talk around for years that Les Hill (*Blake in Home And Away*) is gay. Could these steamy shots of Les and former co-star Cathy Godbold (Meg now Jules in *Newlyweds*) have been 'staged' to give him a better image? No many are saying. Yes cry others. These photographs and more were taken by photographer Serge Thomann on a Melbourne Beach last year at the height of the on-screen romance of Blake and Meg. They appeared in *New Idea* on May 15th.

It is said Les and Cathy were also having a torrid fling off-screen at the time and that little coercion was needed for either to do the photo shoot. It certainly has enhanced Les's image in the eyes of many. (One of the shots of Les with Cathy cut away appeared in a Perth gay paper this month.) Les had been involved at the time with actress Mouche Phillips but they have since split up.

Doesn't sound much like being gay to me unless your one of those closet gays who are also closet bisexuals. Les is just a sexual person, no labels. However a source from within the Entertainment Industry told Biways that Les Hill was not just sexual but bisexual. Whatever Les Hill is -- sexual, bisexual, gay, straight -- it is really his business and no one else's. It would be nice to think he could come out Bi if he really was that way inclined. One thing is for sure, not only has he got a cute face with a great grin, he has a great pair of cheeks to match!!!!

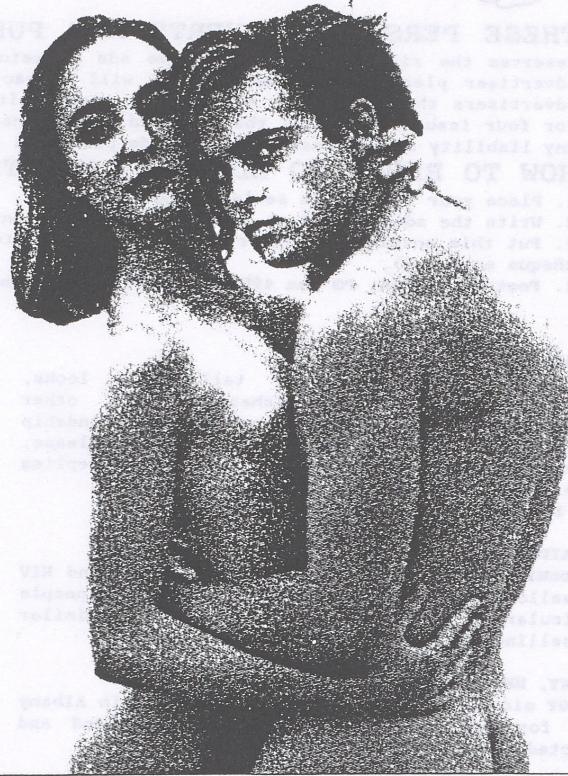
You can catch Les Hill nude in the shower scene in the film *Flirting*.



■ Left: Les Hill and Mouche Phillips . . . now they have split.

While on about the sexual preference of Stars, the same issue of *New Idea* ran a very, very camp photo of The Duke, John Wayne taken some 40 years ago. The story claimed gay activists were posthumously outing Wayne as a transvestite. Frenchman, Rene Duffay's book *The Duke And I*, documents Rene's relationship with the screen legend during the filming of *The Undefeated* which also co-starred Rock Hudson. Rene claims that he was Rock's live-in lover and was cast aside for an extra on the set. The Duke swept him up and that night according to Rene made love to him the way no man ever had. They say bisexuals are great lovers, look at Flinn, Valentino, Monroe and others. The Duke's eldest son, Michael has said the family finds it repugnant.

We have given Les and The Duke a place each on the cover just in case it turns out they are Bi.



in the NEWS

■ The steamy photos of Cathy Godbold and Les Hill that her furious mother Rosemary Margan walked out on. But sultry Cathy wasn't baring all. She had pulled down her swimsuit (above) for these daring poses with Les.



BI

PERSONALS

THESE PERSONAL ADVERTS ARE PUBLISHED FREE. The Australian Bisexual Network reserves the right to edit offensive ads or refuse to publish ads. If you have a complaint about an advertiser please inform ABN and we will contact advertiser or remove personal ad from BIWAYS. All advertisers should contact ABN if they wish their personal ad deleted. Personal ads will be published for four issues of BIWAYS then deleted automatically unless renewed by advertiser. ABN does not accept any liability or responsibility for ads published in BIWAYS.

HOW TO REPLY TO ADVERTS: WRITTEN REPLIES ONLY.

1. Place your reply in a sealed stamped envelope.
2. Write the advert CODE on the front centre of envelope.
3. Put this envelope together with \$3 or \$5 for two replies in another envelope (stamps, money order or cheque accepted).
4. Post it to ABN, PO Box 490, Lutwyche, Queensland 4030.

ADELAIDE, SA.

BI GUY 45yrs, married, 6' tall, good looks, interested most things, wishes to meet other straight acting bi-guys 20-45 years for friendship and safe fun times. Only genuine replies please, phone number for quick reply, but all replies answered. Discretion assured and expected. Code SA-A1.

ADELAIDE, SA.

BI IDENTIFIED LESBIAN who is a disabilities and HIV counsellor wishes to make contact with other people particularly bisexuals in same or similar counselling fields. Code SA-T1.

ALBANY, WA.

BI GUY mid 40's, married, seeks Bi couple in Albany area for fun safe times, discretion assured and expected. Code WA-M2.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI WOMAN 40, teacher, seeks similar bi or gay woman for friendship, mutual support and understanding. Code QD-B1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI LADY 50 yrs, married, would love to meet a similar Lady for a loving discrete friendship or relationship. Love nature, cycling, swimming, love to laugh & going to concerts or good films. Code QD-R2.

BRISBANE, QLD.

GAY GUY 34yr old wishes to try first time sex with woman. I am clean, discrete & slim. Couple okay. Code QD-B2.

BRISBANE, QLD

BI GUY 26yrs, tall, fit, healthy, long hair, good looks, novice looking for Bi guy or couples for first time experience. Code QD-S1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY 30's, easy going, tall, slim, good sense of humour, athletic & fun to be with. Would like to meet Bi lady/couple for friendship. Code QD-M2.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY 37yrs, 6ft, 75kg, straight acting, non-scene, married, hairless body and loves nudity. Interested in naked guys, gentle, non-threatening safe sex with guys. Open to discussions with guys of all ages, talking about male & female sex but particularly keen to find guys who can relate to a married guy who is interested in gentle nude sex with other guys. Would like to write to or phone other bisexual guys. Have safe private post box for your letter. Code QD-H1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY 24year old seeks couple (male/female) to meet for friendship & mutually rewarding safe sex. I've been predominately gay since adolescence but desperately need help in exploring my sexuality further. Absolute discretion assured/expected. Phone number & photo (returnable) greatly appreciated. Code QD-F1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY young 38yrs, tall, slim, single, passionate, likes beach, bush, safe fun times & loves to give oral would like to meet similar minded bi guys, girls or couples to 35 years for fun time & friendship, possible relationship. Don't be shy, why not give me a try, at least for coffee or a drink. Code QD-R1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

GAY GUY 29yrs slim, good looking, only into safe sex wishes to meet a young lady or couple for first time sexual experience with woman and explore my desires and sexuality further. Code QD-M1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

GAY GUY 40, slim trim, hairy, average looks, wants to meet younger Bi or gay guy for friendship, sexual activities if suited. Prefer outdoor interests like beach, fishing etc. All replies answered. Code QD-C1.

BRISBANE, QLD.

STRAIGHT GUY 30 yrs. seeks Bi-Lady or Bi lady couple for friendship & good times. Love to watch & maybe join in for safe sex & masturbation. Code QD-M3.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY 38 yrs, young minded, 5' 7", 58 Kg, very fit, passionate, likes horse riding, races, country outings. I am a shy person looking to meet Bi guys (broadminded) for first time encounter & possible relationship. Phone number for quick reply. Genuine. Code QD-B3.

BRISBANE, QLD.

BI GUY mid fifties, 6 ft, 89 Kg, fit, non-scene, enjoys safe sex & good company, seeks male any age, passive a plus, videos and non-invasive fun, good conversationalist a double plus. Code QD-D1.

BUNBURY, WA.

BI WOMAN 32 yrs, slim & attractive, married seeks similar Bi woman or couple for friendship & relationship. Discretion assured & expected. ALA. Code WA-S4.

KAMBALDA, WA.

BI GUY 37yrs, married, interested in meeting Bi guys or couples in Kambalda/Kalgoolie area. Interested in most things, safe sex and discretion a must. ALA. Code WA-H1.

MELBOURNE, VIC.

BI GUY 28yrs, finding it really hard getting into the gay scene and a straight life too boring. Interested in contacting other bisexual people in Melbourne. Am also be visiting Queensland at least twice in 1993. Code VI-S1.

NTH. NSW / S.E. QLD.

BI GUY Hi. I'm a healthy, smooth, versatile, enviro/conscious, vegetarian, 25yr old bi guy who gets off on sport, art, dance, the beach but lacks the fulfillment of a bisexual relationship. Code NS-B1.



BI PERSONALS

PERTH, WA.

BI GIRL 24 seeks meetings and friendship with other lady to 40 years, also couples with Bi wife. I don't mind if husband joins in. Please reply with photo and letter. ALA Genuine. Code WA-R4.

PERTH, WA.

BI WOMAN 19yrs, enjoys life, nice looking, sense of humour seeks Bi/gay women for relationship or friendship. Phone number appreciated for quick reply. Discretion assured & expected. Code WA-P2.

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY 28 yrs wishes to meet other Bi - males, females, couples to explore and enjoy life with. Transsexuals welcome. Code WA-G2.

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY married, 49 yrs old, would like to meet same or TV for mutual massage, fun safe times. I am slim, well built but not very experienced. WA-D2.

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY 27yrs, single, 6'2", slim build, interests are scubadiving, martial arts, outdoor activities and safe sex. I am seeking a Bisexual guy or Bisexual girl who have similar interests, especially scubadiving. ALA. Code WA-R3.

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY 36yrs seeks Bi male, Bi female or Bi couple for safe times, discretion assured, age & race no barrier, transsexuals welcome. Code WA-W3.

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY 29yrs moves between Perth and Gascoyne District. Interested in meeting other Bi men, women & couples. Code WA-C1.

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY 35yrs slim build 5'7", fair, fit & healthy, reasonable looks, enjoys most things, good sense of humour, easy going would like to meet Bi woman for honest safe future. ALA. Code WA-M1.

PERTH, WA.

BI GUY own business, 44yrs, married, 5'7", slimish, fit & healthy, reasonable looks, S.O.H. Into boating (own boat), gym, fishing, BBQ, outdoors, footy & cricket, meeting people. Interested in meeting younger Bi guys, Bi girls, married or single, small build, straight acting, under 5'7" for friendship and possible relationship, possible X-dress. ALA. Code WA-B2.

PERTH, WA.

STRAIGHT GUY 40 married, attractive looking for attractive Bi female with or without partner. Code WA-O1.

PERTH/FREMANTLE, WA.

HETERO-BI GUY single, 20's seeks guys, girls, transsexuals, 18-25, any nationality for fun times & possible friendship, north of the river from Fremantle to City Beach areas, must be non-pushy, discrete, good sense of humour, easy going, don't mind if you drink or smoke (because I do) & most of all be honest. Only genuine replies please and send your photo & phone number for quick reply. ALA. Code WA-S3.

ROCKINGHAM, WA.

BI GUY 21yrs, single, likes the gym and the beach. Wishing to meet straight acting guys 18 to 25 years especially in the Rockingham & Mandurah areas for safe fun times. Code WA-R2.

SYDNEY, NSW.

BI GUY 21yrs, single, slim, good looking, healthy, non smoker/drinker seeking guy/girl for one to one relationship, not into one nighters. Safe sex and honesty a must. Code NS-C1.

Famous Women Who Love Women We Salute You!

From Queensland Pride June 1993.

KATHERINE MANSFIELD

Katherine Mansfield Beauchamp was born in New Zealand in 1888, the daughter of a prominent business man, but resided mainly in England and Europe. Although she is best known as a writer of short stories, Mansfield does have one other claim to fame. It is possible that D.H. Lawrence based the lesbian episode in his novel *The Rainbow* on material gleaned indirectly from Mansfield.

When she was eighteen and still living in New Zealand, Mansfield fell in love with a painter, Edith Bendall, who was twenty-seven. However, Bendall soon married, denying that there was anything sexual in her relations with the future writer.

In 1908 Mansfield moved to England where she gravitated to bohemian circles, entering into a brief, unhappy marriage. A year later in Germany, she produced her best known work, a collection of short stories titled *In A German Pension* (pub. 1911).

Returning to England, she began an important liaison with the editor and writer John Middleton Murry, whom she finally married in 1918. While personal circumstances and the state of her health denied Mansfield the stamina to attempt novels, she compensated by refining her short stories so that each made a memorable point.

Inspite of her relationship with Murry, it was a woman that Mansfield chose as her companion. She shared a lifelong relationship with Ida Constance Baker whom she met at college in London. Mansfield referred to Baker as her "slave", her "wife", "the Monster" and "the Mountain". Despite these epithets, however, throughout her life Mansfield relied on Baker, taking her money and possessions when she needed them. Later, when her circumstances improved, she employed Baker as a personal servant.

Having developed tuberculosis in 1917, after World War I Mansfield moved to La Prieuré, the country establishment of the mystic George Gurdjieff, near Fontainebleau south of Paris. Exuberantly heterosexual himself, Gurdjieff had a number of lesbian and male acolytes and was at the time generally linked with "advanced thought". Unfortunately, Mansfield's guru decided to cure her tuberculosis by having her sleep in an unheated stable. She died at La Prieuré in January 1923 at the age of 35.

While some have denied any lesbian component to Mansfield's personality, the cumulative evidence makes this denial unlikely. Certainly, her declared love for Bendall and her references to Baker leave little doubt as to her feelings for these women at least and it is probably best that Mansfield be regarded as bisexual.

Catherine McKenzie

LISTINGS

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA

National

AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

National body for bisexual men, women and affiliated groups promoting bisexuality, bisexual rights, pride and advocacy for bisexuals. Produces *National Biways* a newsletter for the bisexual movement in Australia. Contact Wayne Roberts PO Box 490, LUTWYCHE Qld 4030 ah (07) 857 2774

QUEER COLLABORATIONS

National network for non-heterosexual/queer students. c/- Lesbian & Gay Officers, SRC, Level 1, Wentworth Building, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY NSW 2006

States & Territories

Australian Capital Territory

CANBERRA BI-LINK

Support and social group for married gay and bisexual women. PO Box 522, DICKSON ACT 2602

New South Wales

GAMMA (NSW)

Social and support group for married, divorced gay/bisexual men. Meets 1st and 3rd Wed each month at 197 Albion Street, SURREY HILLS NSW 2010. ph: 6pm-10pm (02) 360 9810 or (008) 80 4617

SILKROAD

Social/support group for Asian gay and bisexual men. Contact Arnel (02) 283 3222

SYDNEY BISEXUAL SUPPORT NETWORK

Social, support and political group for bisexual men, women and friends. Contact: Adrian Miller (02) 888 9856 or Kate ah (02) 698 1801 or Pat ah (02) 363 9547 SBSN, Box 54, 412 Oxford St PADDINGTON NSW 2021

Queensland

QUEENSLAND BISEXUAL NETWORK

A social and political group for bisexual men and women. Contact Wayne ah (07) 857 2774 or Terese ah (07) 358 5516 QBN, PO Box 490, LUTWYCHE Qld 4030

South Australia

BISEXUAL AND MARRIED HOMOSEXUAL MEN'S GROUP

A support group organised by the AIDS Council of South Australia ah (08) 362 1611 PO Box 907, NORWOOD SA 5067

SECOND STORY YOUTH CENTRE

Services and support group for young people including bisexual youth. (08) 232 0233 57 Hyde Street, ADELAIDE SA 5000

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

Social and political network for bisexual women, men and friends. Contact Margaret ah (08) 344 6146 SABN, PO Box 3391, Grenfell Street, ADELAIDE SA 5000

Victoria - Melbourne

AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Social and support groups for bisexual men and married bisexual/gay men and their wives. GAMMA project offers telephone and face to face counselling for bisexual men and partners. Resource library available. (03) 890 1068 14 A Churchill Street, MONT ALBERT VIC 3127

GAMMA MELBOURNE

Social and support group for married gay/bisexual men, meets 8pm last Monday each month at Collingwood Community Health Centre, Sackville Street. Enter from Hoddle Street. Write: PO Box 41, RICHMOND VIC 3121

LA TROBE BI-FRIENDLY GROUP

Social and support group for bisexual and bi-friendly students attending La Trobe University. c/- SRC, La Trobe University, BUNDOORA VIC 3083

RELATE

Social and support group for married gay men who wish to remain married. PO Box 441, MALVERN VIC 3144

Victoria - country

ALTERNATIVE CONNECTIONS

Social club for gay and bisexual men in the Hamilton district. AC-DC, PO Box 366, HAMILTON VIC 3300

GEELONG SOCIAL AND SUPPORT GROUP

Social and support group for gay and bisexual men. (03) 43 9438 PO Box 596, BELMONT VIC 3216

GIPPSLAND GAY PEOPLE'S SUPPORT GROUP

Social and support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual people in the Gippsland district. (051) 34 6117 PO Box 848, MORWELL VIC 3840

SCENE

Gay and lesbain youth support group in the Shepparton district. Operates Country Scene Information Line 0055 13159 (25c/21.4sec) PO Box 904, SHEPPARTON VIC 3630

Western Australia

AIDS HELPLINE (09) 227 8619

AIDS YOUTHLINE (09) 328 2644

ASIANS AND FRIENDS PERTH

A social and support group for gay and bisexual Asian men and friends. Organised by the Western Australia Aids Council. (09) 227 8355

BI & GAY FATHERS

Contact Bill ah (09) 271 4171

BISEXUAL AND MARRIED GAY MEN'S GROUP

A social and support group organised by the Western Australia Aids Council. Ring Mondays (09) 328 2656

CURTIN STONEWALL CLUB

A social support group for lesbian, gay and bisexual students at Bently Campus. During semester ring 12noon-2pm Mon-Fri (09) 351 2907
Curtin University of Technology
Kent Street, BENTLEY WA 6102

POLICE LIAISON OFFICER FOR THE GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL COMMUNITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

To report police harassment or other issues involving the police contact Superintendent Bob Kucera (09) 458 2656

WESTERN AUSTRALIA BISEXUAL NETWORK

Conatct Gordon (09) 345 1720

CANADA

BI FOCUS

PO Box 34172, Post Office D
VANCOUVER BC V6J 4N1, CANADA

ONTARIO BISEXUAL NETWORK

519 Church Street
TORONTO ONTARIO M4Y 3C9, CANADA

GERMANY

BINE BISEXUELLES NETZWERK EV

Has contact addresses for bi groups nationwide
Postfach 1134, 0-1136 BERLIN

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
540 Castro Street, SAN FRANCISCO CA 94114, USA

JAPAN

BISEXUAL WOMENS GROUP
Gwen Riles (BWG)

Megumi-so 202

5-16-11 Maeno, Itabashi-ku
TOKYO 174, JAPAN

NETHERLANDS

VERENIGING LANDELIJK NETWORK BISEXUALITET
Postbus 75087, 1070 AB AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

NEW ZEALAND

CHRISTCHURCH BISEXUAL GROUP
PO Box 1372, CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON BISEXUAL WOMEN'S GROUP
PO Box 5145, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON GAY AND BI DADS' GROUP
Contact John Boyd 888 5992
PO Box 10-245, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

RUSSIA

MOSCOW BI-SEX CLUB
PO Box N3, MOSCOW 123308, RUSSIA

UNITED KINGDOM

BIFROST

National newsletter and information.
PO Box 117, NORWICH NR1 2SU, ENGLAND

EDINBURGH BISEXUAL GROUP

Operates the bisexual pen pals scheme and houses bisexual archives.
58a Broughton Street, EDINBURGH EH1 3SA, SCOTLAND

LONDON BISEXUAL GROUP
BM/BI, LONDON WC1N 3XX, ENGLAND

LONDON BISEXUAL WOMEN'S GROUP
BM/LBWG, LONDON WC1N 3XX, ENGLAND

USA

BI CONNECTION
PO Box 1358, MINNEAPOLIS MN 55414, USA

BI UNITY
PO Box 42106, PHILADELPHIA PA 19101, USA

BISEXUAL NETWORK OF THE USA
National organisation.
PO Box 772 WASHINGTON DC 20044-0772, USA

EAST COAST BISEXUAL NETWORK
PO Box 639 CAMBRIDGE MA 02140, USA

NEW YORK AREA BISEXUAL NETWORK
PO Box 497 Times Squ Station, NEW YORK NY 10108 USA

SEATTLE BISEXUAL WOMEN'S NETWORK
PO Box 30645, Greenwood Station,
SEATTLE WA 98103-0645, USA

PORTLAND BISEXUAL WOMEN'S GROUP
PO Box 10863, PORTLAND OR 97210, USA

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF

"THE UNBEARABLE
LIGHTNESS OF BEING."

A TRUE
ADVENTURE
MORE EROTIC THAN
ANY FANTASY.

Henry & June

"The most important film of the year." - *James Verniere, Boston Herald*

"An erotic masterpiece." - *Stephen Farber, Movieline Magazine*

"**** An exceptional work... the year's best film." - *Michael Sragow, San Francisco Examiner*

"A wonderful film." - *Terrence Rafferty, The New Yorker*

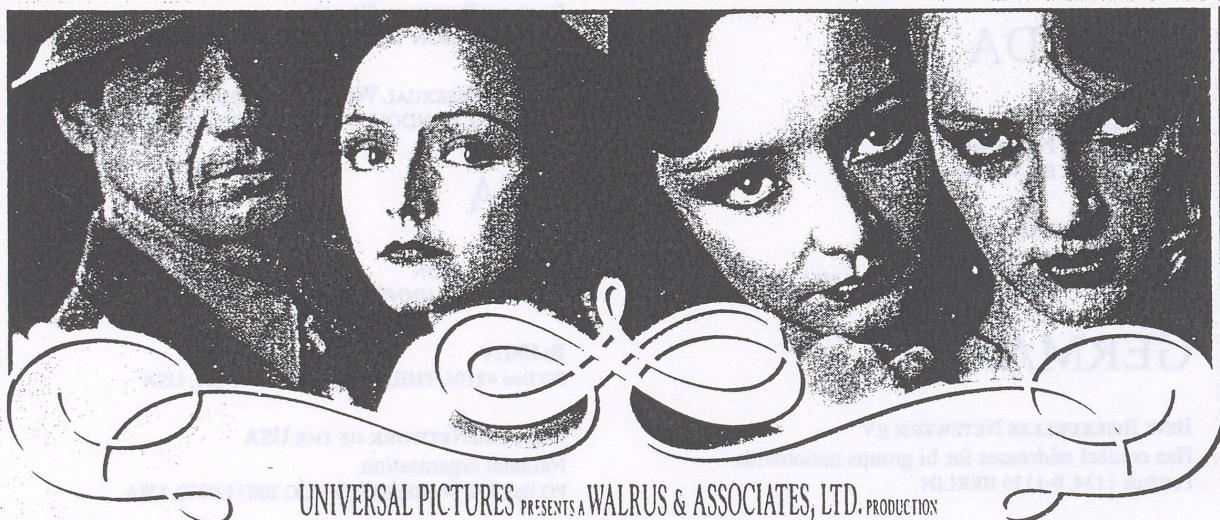
Philip Kaufman's brilliant film explores the erotic life of two individuals who became 20th Century literary giants.

Upon meeting unconventional American author Henry Miller (Fred Ward) in Paris, 1931, a young writer named Anais Nin (Maria de Medeiros) boldly embarks on a passionate

voyage of self-discovery, and faithfully records every experience in her diary.

In their defiant search for new truths, Anais and Henry are tantalized by Henry's enigmatic and hauntingly sensual wife, June (Uma Thurman).

Beautifully photographed, *Henry and June* is an unforgettable journey into the uncharted territory of human relationships, based on the long-suppressed sections of Anais Nin's diaries. *Philip Wuntch, Dallas Morning News* calls the film "brilliant and intoxicating. It is a film to see more than once and remember for a very long time."



UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS A WALRUS & ASSOCIATES, LTD. PRODUCTION

A PHILIP KAUFMAN FILM

"HENRY & JUNE" FRED WARD UMA THURMAN MARIA de MEDEIROS RICHARD E. GRANT KEVIN SPACEY EDITED BY VIVIEN HILLGROVE

WILLIAM S. SCHARF DEDE ALLEN, A.C.E. DIRECTOR OF PHILIPPE ROUSSELOT SCREENPLAY BY PHILIP KAUFMAN & ROSE KAUFMAN

PRODUCED BY PETER KAUFMAN DIRECTED BY PHILIP KAUFMAN A UNIVERSAL RELEASE

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Running Time Approx. 131 mins./Colour

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BI

PERSONALS

The Australian Bisexual Network provides a free personal advert section in the national bisexual newsletter BIWAYS for bisexual or bisexualy inclined people. ABN reserves the right to edit or reject adverts that include material that is likely to offend others or that suggests illegal activity. ABN will not publish material that appears as racist (no Asians), sexist (no fems), age-ist (no oldies), size-ist (no fatties) or classist or that involves children (minors) or the exchange of money for sex. Say what you like, not what you dislike. Treat people with respect and be honest about your own self.

TO PLACE A FREE ADVERT IN BIWAYS.

Please place my free personal advert in the next issue of National BIWAYS. I am 18 years or older and know that the publishers reserve the right to edit or reject any advert that may cause undue offense or suggest illegal activity. I understand my personal details given will be kept strictly confidential by the publishers and not given to any other group, publication or person without my permission in writing.

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

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POSTCODE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

REPLIES TO MY AD: 1. PLEASE POST ALL REPLIES TO ADDRESS GIVEN ABOVE.

2. DO NOT POST REPLIES TO ABOVE ADDRESS, I WILL (a) COLLECT _____
(b) TELEPHONE _____.

OPTIONS

YOU ARE

- BI MAN
- BI WOMAN
- BI COUPLE MALE/FEMALE
- BI COUPLE FEMALE
- BI COUPLE MALE
- BI MAN/GAY MAN COUPLE
- BI WOMAN/GAY WOMAN COUPLE
- BI MAN/STRAIGHT WOMAN COUPLE
- BI WOMAN/STRAIGHT MAN COUPLE
- BI TRANSEXUAL MALE
- BI TRANSEXUAL FEMALE
- STRAIGHT COUPLE
- GAY WOMAN or LESBIAN
- GAY MAN
- STRAIGHT MAN
- STRAIGHT WOMAN
- TRANSEXUAL/TRANSVESTITE MAN
- TRANSEXUAL/TRANSVESTITE WOMAN

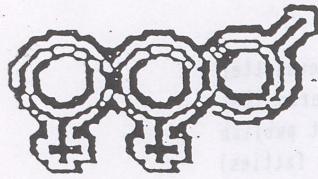
YOU SEEK

- BI MAN
- BI WOMAN
- BI COUPLE MALE/FEMALE
- BI COUPLE FEMALE
- BI COUPLE MALE
- BI MAN/GAY MAN COUPLE
- BI WOMAN/GAY WOMAN COUPLE
- BI MAN/STRAIGHT WOMAN COUPLE
- BI WOMAN/STRAIGHT MAN COUPLE
- BI TRANSEXUAL MALE
- BI TRANSEXUAL FEMALE
- STRAIGHT COUPLE
- GAY WOMAN or LESBIAN
- GAY MAN
- STRAIGHT MAN
- STRAIGHT WOMAN
- TRANSEXUAL/TRANSVESTITE MAN
- TRANSEXUAL/TRANSVESTITE WOMAN

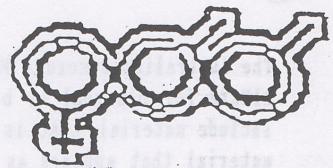
My ad reads as thus:

city/town	state	POST TO:- Australian Bisexual Network, PO Box 490, Lutwyche, QLD. 4030.
attach spare paper		

POST TO:- Australian Bisexual Network, PO Box 490, Lutwyche, QLD. 4030.



REGISTRATION FORM



AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK MEMBERSHIP / SUBSCRIPTION

MEMBERSHIP

I wish to apply for membership of the Australian Bisexual Network which I understand entitles me to a vote at any formal meetings of the Network, seek endorsement to a position on the Network committee, a subscription to the Australian Bisexual Network newsletter: *National BIWAYS* and other entitlements that may be bestowed on members.

SURNAME: CHRISTIAN NAMES:

ADDRESS:

..... POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE NO.: home business

Is discretion needed should we need to contact you by phone?

I am already a (financial) member of :
and my details/updated details are above.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION ONLY

I wish to take out a subscription to *National BIWAYS* the national newsletter of the bisexual movement in Australia.

SURNAME: CHRISTIAN NAMES:

ADDRESS:

..... POSTCODE:

I have already paid a subscription to *BIWAYS* which will be transferred to *National BIWAYS*
(please tick)

My postal details are as above.

DONATION

I wish to make a donation of \$5 (or amount given below) to ABN to help with the running costs and services (please tick)

Membership \$20/\$12 conc. \$.....

Subscription Only \$15/\$10 conc. \$.....

Donation \$.....

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$.....

SIGNATURE: DATE:

Post to:-

AUSTRALIAN BISEXUAL NETWORK

PO BOX 490
LUTWYCHE
QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA 4030

"National Biways." National Biways, vol. 2, no. 4, June 1993.
Archives of Sexuality and Gender, link.gale.com/apps/doc/YRXGVJ498594023/AHSI?u=ubcolumbia&sid=bookmark-AHSI.
Accessed 26 Nov. 2024.